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#1 IN A NINE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
SECRET WARS II
WHO IS THE BEYONDER?
BYRNE·AUSTIN

Beyond time, space, and the myriad dimensions lies another universe, to which our own is as a droplet of water to the ocean. The One Who Is All in that other universe has learned of our universe, and of us . . . and he is coming here. Now.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SECRET WARS™ II

HE ENTERS OUR SPACE AT A RANDOM POINT. FOR TIME AND DISTANCE HAVE NO MEANING TO HIM. AT UNIMAGINABLE VELOCITY, HE TRAVELS THROUGH THE VOID...

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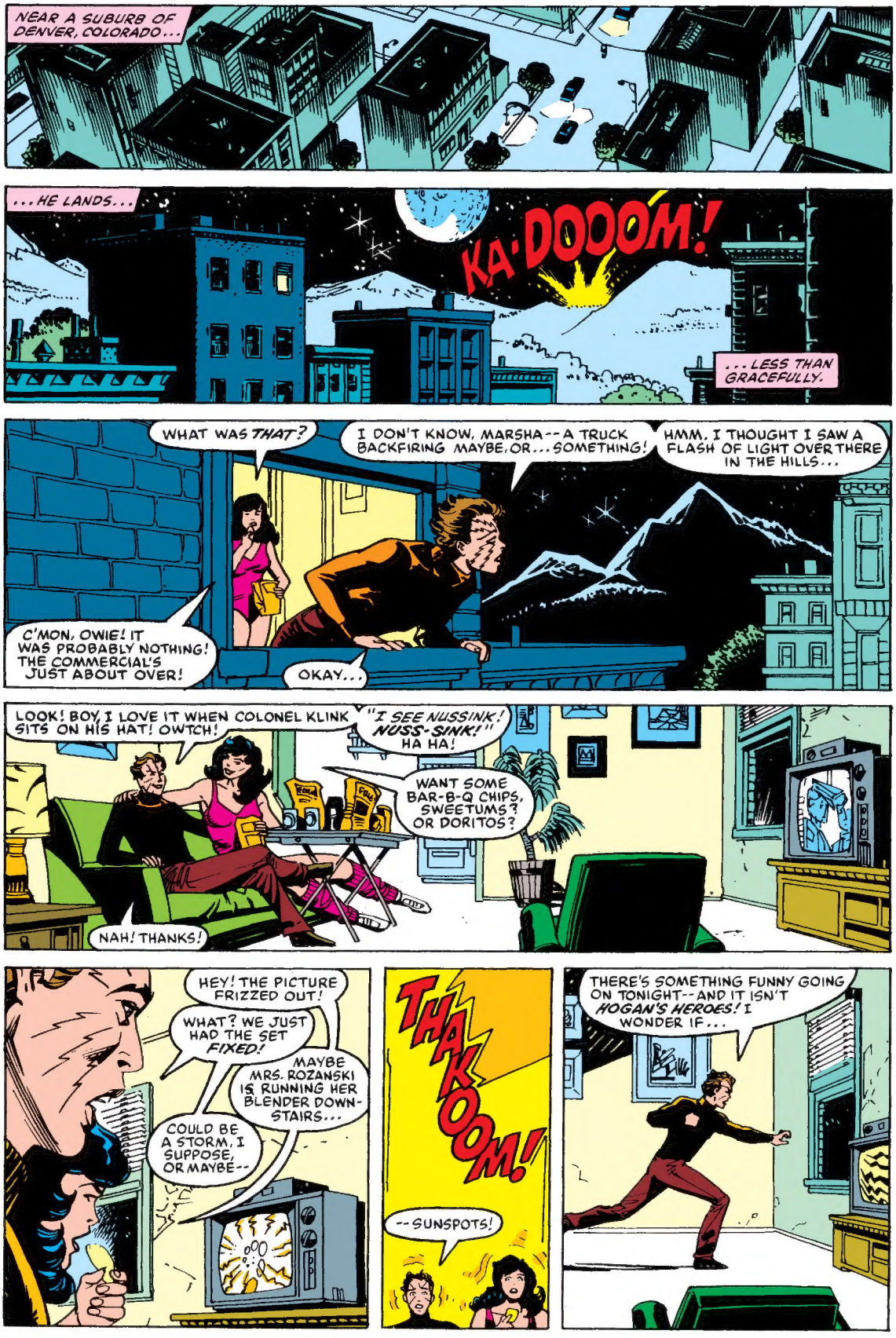
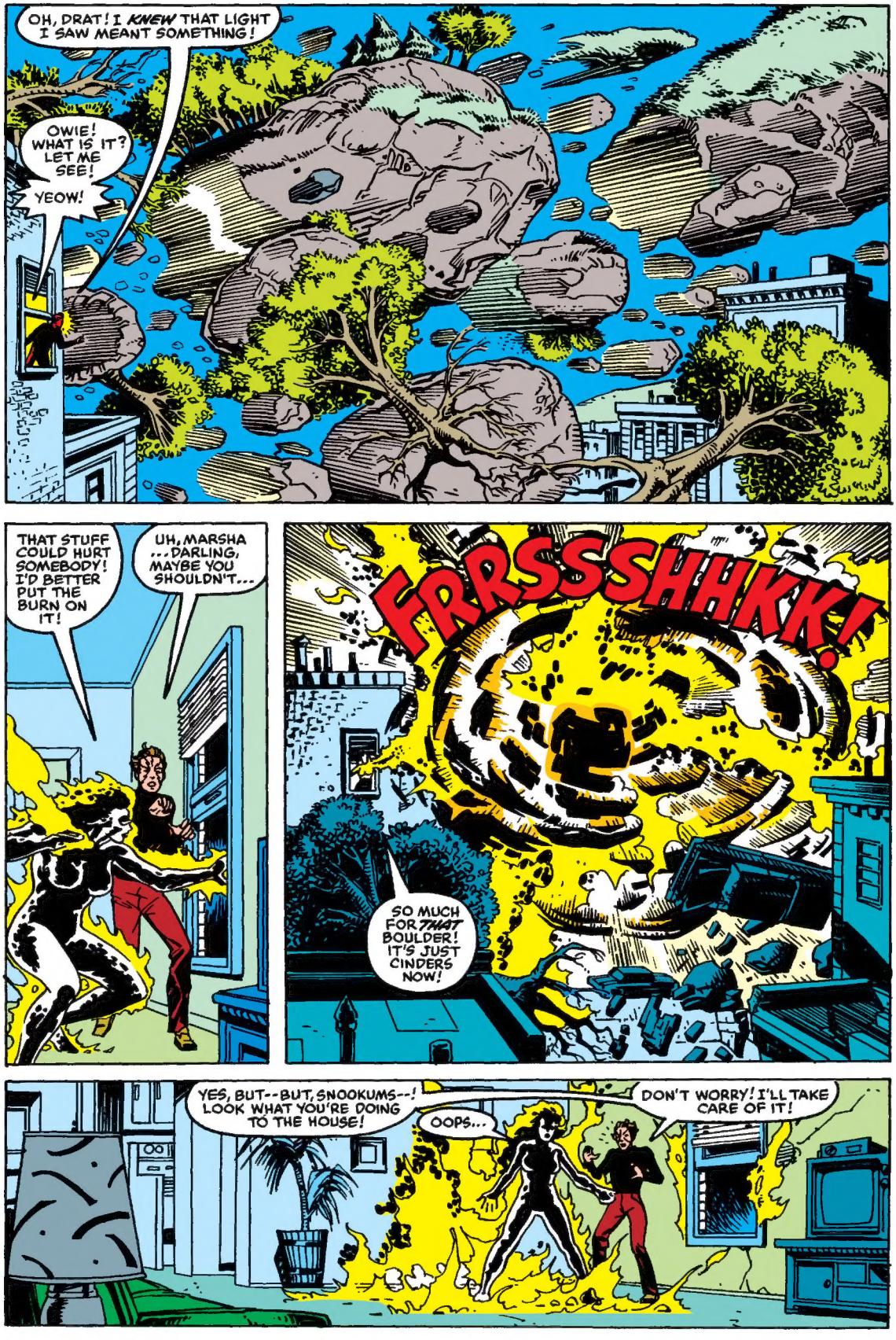
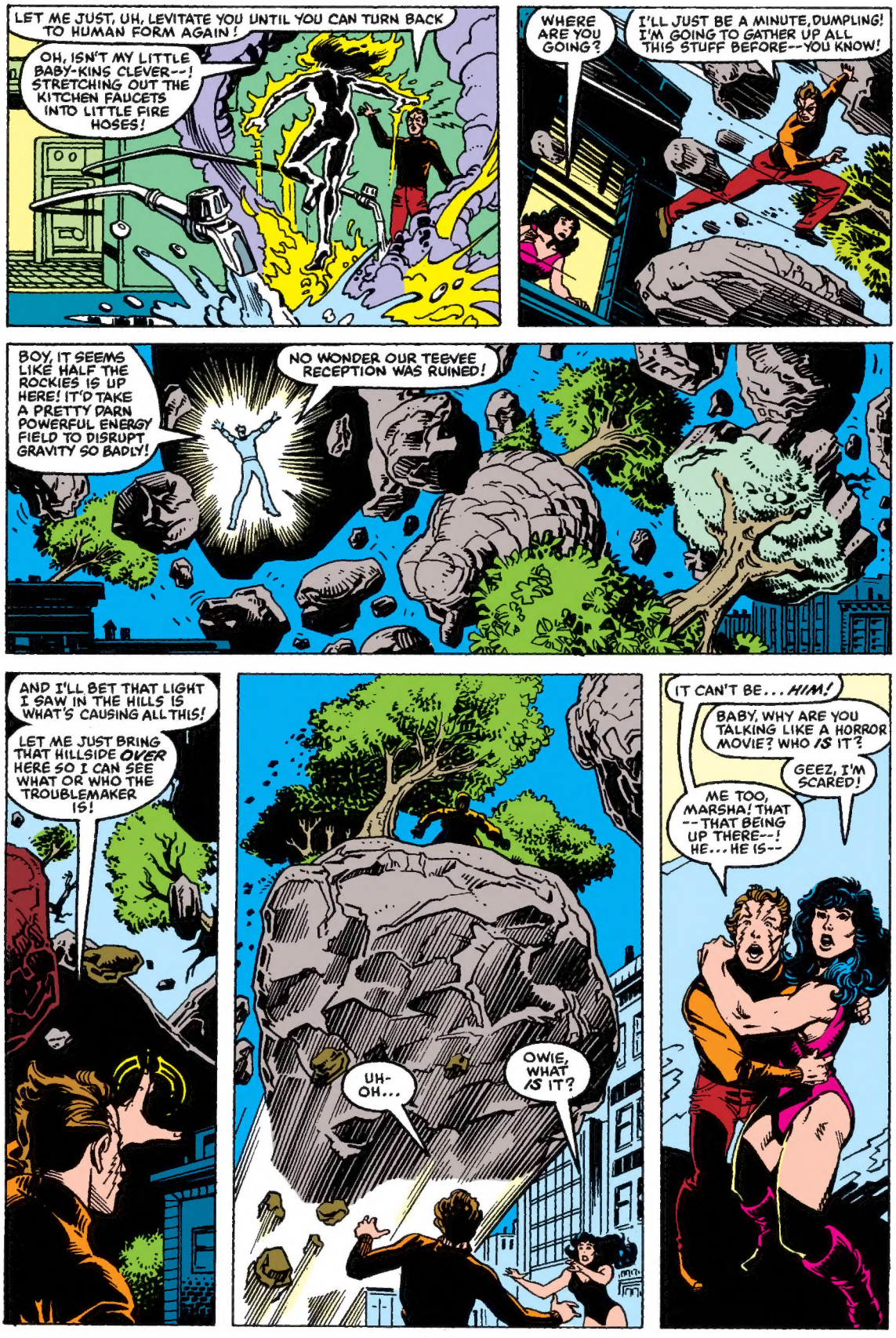
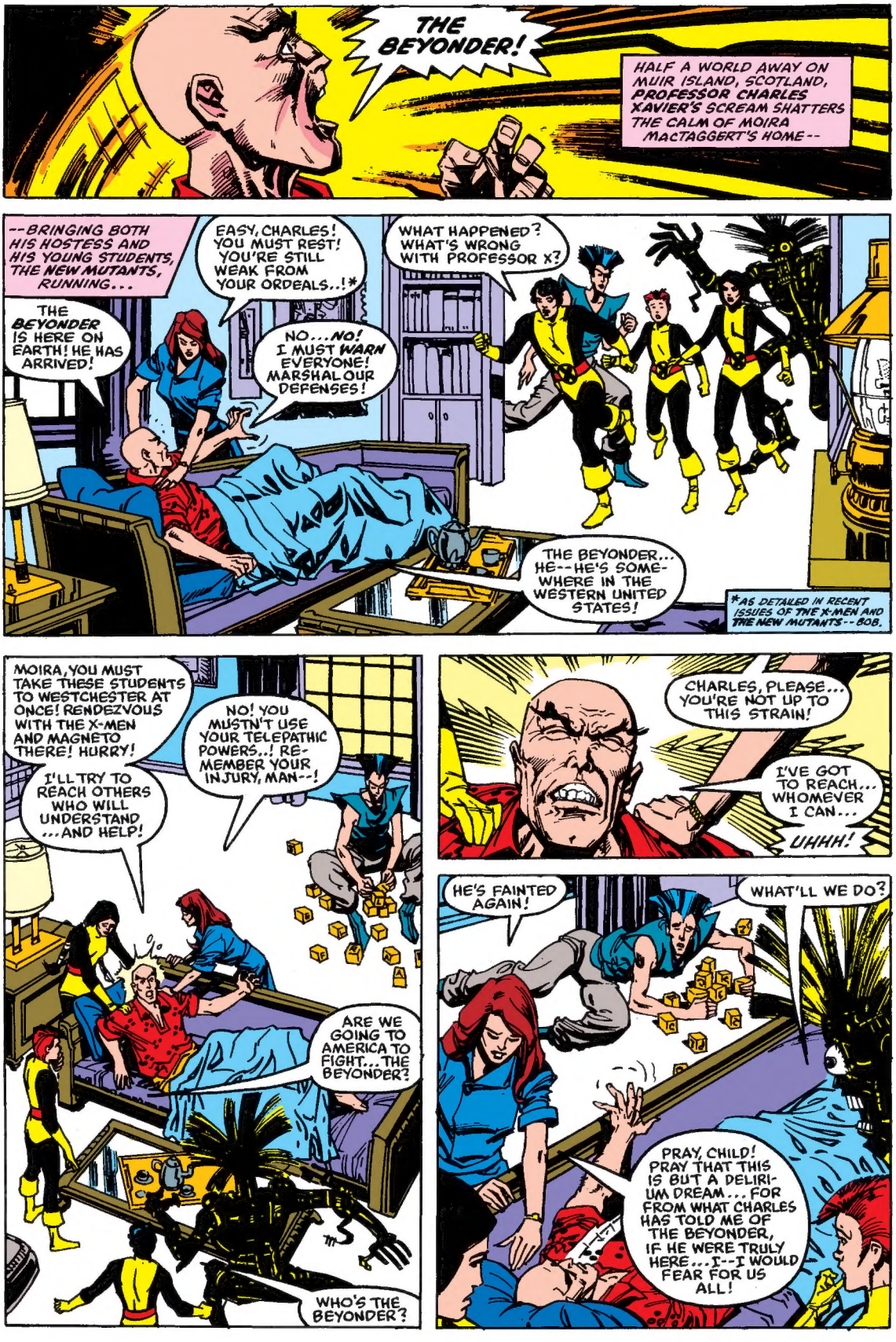
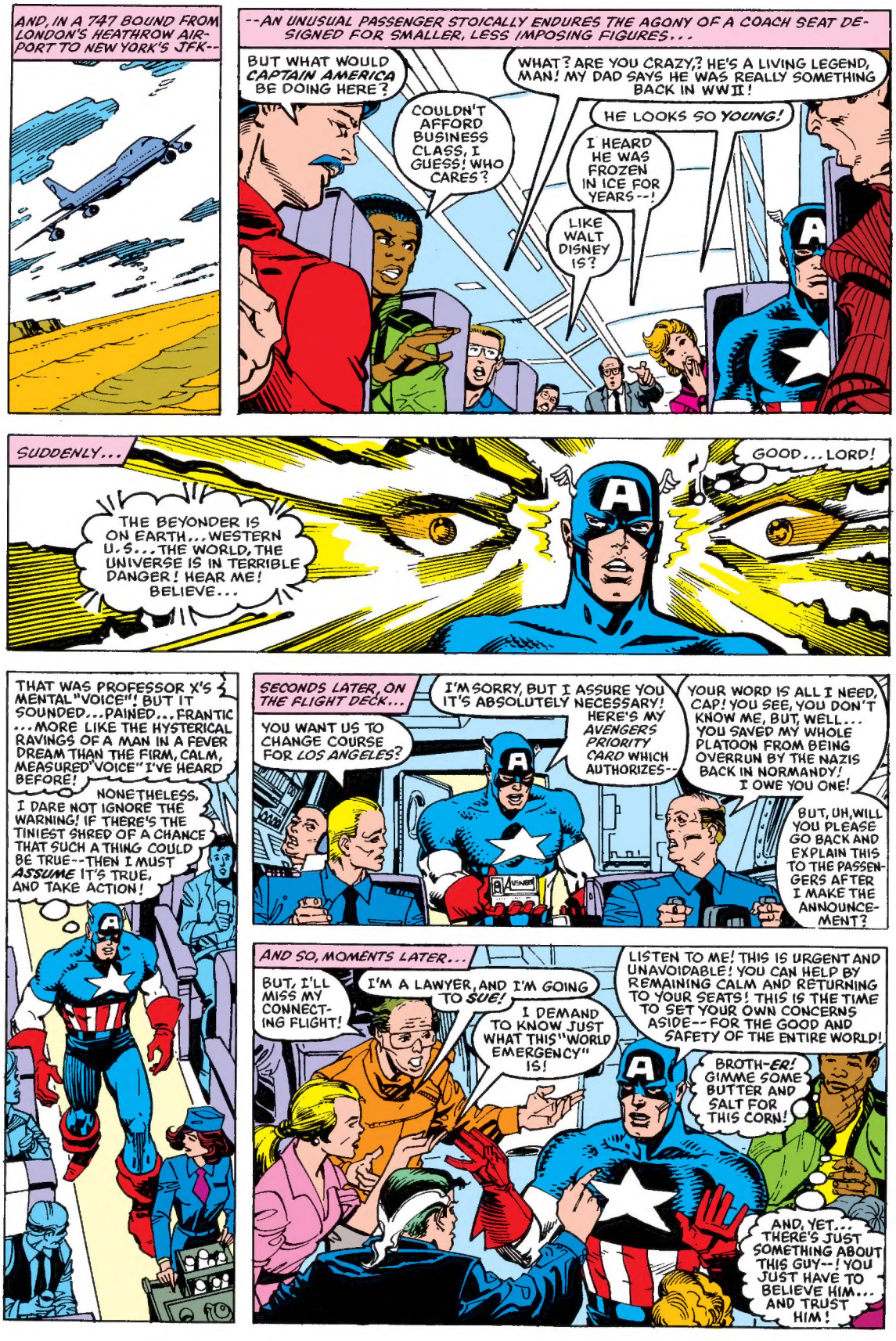
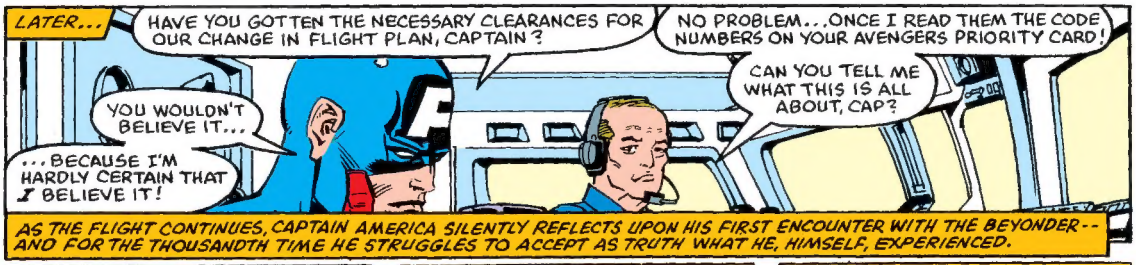

NEAR A SUBURB OF DENVER, COLORADO...
...HE LANDS...
KA-DOOOM!
...LESS THAN GRACEFULLY.
WHAT WAS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW, MARSHA--A TRUCK BACKFIRING MAYBE, OR... SOMETHING!
HMM. I THOUGHT I SAW A FLASH OF LIGHT OVER THERE IN THE HILLS...
C'MON, OWIE! IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING! THE COMMERCIAL'S JUST ABOUT OVER!
OKAY...
LOOK! BOY, I LOVE IT WHEN COLONEL KLINK SITS ON HIS HAT! OWTCH!
"I SEE NUSSINK! NUSS-SINK!" HA HA!
WANT SOME BAR-B-Q CHIPS, SWEETUMS? OR DORITOS?
NAH! THANKS!
HEY! THE PICTURE FRIZZED OUT!
WHAT? WE JUST HAD THE SET FIXED!
MAYBE MRS. ROZANSKI IS RUNNING HER BLENDER DOWN-STAIRS...
COULD BE A STORM, I SUPPOSE, OR MAYBE--
THAKOOM!
--SUNSPOTS!
THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY GOING ON TONIGHT--AND IT ISN'T HOGAN'S HEROES! I WONDER IF...


OH, DRAT! I KNEW THAT LIGHT I SAW MEANT SOMETHING!
OWIE! WHAT IS IT? LET ME SEE!
YEOW!
THAT STUFF COULD HURT SOMEBODY! I'D BETTER PUT THE BURN ON IT!
UH, MARSHA ...DARLING, MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T...
FRRSSSHHKK!
SO MUCH FOR THAT BOULDER! IT'S JUST CINDERS NOW!
YES, BUT--BUT, SNOOKUMS--! LOOK WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO THE HOUSE!
OOPS...
DON'T WORRY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!


LET ME JUST, UH, LEVITATE YOU UNTIL YOU CAN TURN BACK TO HUMAN FORM AGAIN!
OH, ISN'T MY LITTLE BABY-KINS CLEVER--! STRETCHING OUT THE KITCHEN FAUCETS INTO LITTLE FIRE HOSES!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'LL JUST BE A MINUTE, DUMPLING! I'M GOING TO GATHER UP ALL THIS STUFF BEFORE--YOU KNOW!
BOY, IT SEEMS LIKE HALF THE ROCKIES IS UP HERE! IT'D TAKE A PRETTY DARN POWERFUL ENERGY FIELD TO DISRUPT GRAVITY SO BADLY!
NO WONDER OUR TEEVEE RECEPTION WAS RUINED!
AND I'LL BET THAT LIGHT I SAW IN THE HILLS IS WHAT'S CAUSING ALL THIS!
LET ME JUST BRING THAT HILLSIDE OVER HERE SO I CAN SEE WHAT OR WHO THE TROUBLEMAKER IS!
UH-OH...
OWIE, WHAT IS IT?
IT CAN'T BE... HIM!
BABY, WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE A HORROR MOVIE? WHO IS IT?
GEEZ, I'M SCARED!
ME TOO, MARSHA! THAT --THAT BEING UP THERE--! HE... HE IS--

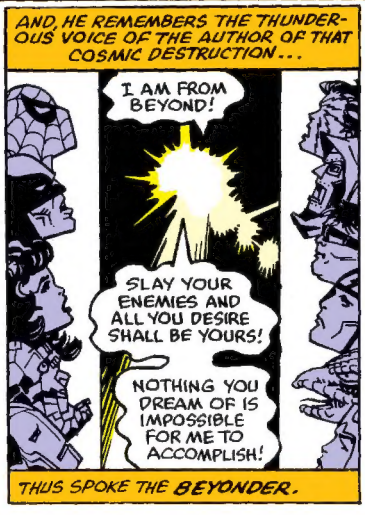

THE BEYONDER!
HALF A WORLD AWAY ON MUIR ISLAND, SCOTLAND, PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCREAM SHATTERS THE CALM OF MOIRA MACTAGGERT'S HOME--
--BRINGING BOTH HIS HOSTESS AND HIS YOUNG STUDENTS, THE NEW MUTANTS, RUNNING...
EASY, CHARLES! YOU MUST REST! YOU'RE STILL WEAK FROM YOUR ORDEALS..!*
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S WRONG WITH PROFESSOR X?
THE BEYONDER IS HERE ON EARTH! HE HAS ARRIVED!
NO...NO! I MUST WARN EVERYONE! MARSHAL OUR DEFENSES!
THE BEYONDER... HE--HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES!
*AS DETAILED IN RECENT ISSUES OF THE X-MEN AND THE NEW MUTANTS--808.
MOIRA, YOU MUST TAKE THESE STUDENTS TO WESTCHESTER AT ONCE! RENDEZVOUS WITH THE X-MEN AND MAGNETO THERE! HURRY!
NO! YOU MUSTN'T USE YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS..! REMEMBER YOUR INJURY, MAN--!
I'LL TRY TO REACH OTHERS WHO WILL UNDERSTAND ...AND HELP!
ARE WE GOING TO AMERICA TO FIGHT... THE BEYONDER?
WHO'S THE BEYONDER?
CHARLES, PLEASE... YOU'RE NOT UP TO THIS STRAIN!
I'VE GOT TO REACH... WHOMEVER I CAN...
UHHH!
HE'S FAINTED AGAIN!
WHAT'LL WE DO?
PRAY, CHILD! PRAY THAT THIS IS BUT A DELIRIUM DREAM... FOR FROM WHAT CHARLES HAS TOLD ME OF THE BEYONDER, IF HE WERE TRULY HERE... I--I WOULD FEAR FOR US ALL!

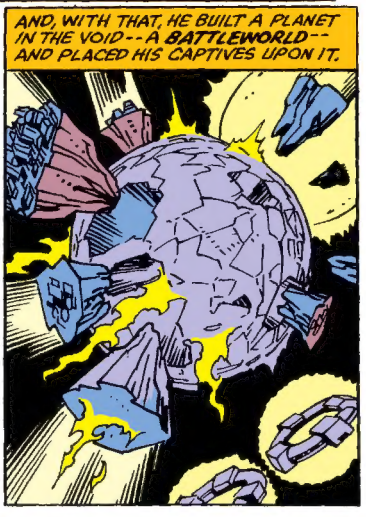

AND, IN A 747 BOUND FROM LONDON'S HEATHROW AIRPORT TO NEW YORK'S JFK--
--AN UNUSUAL PASSENGER STOICALLY ENDURES THE AGONY OF A COACH SEAT DESIGNED FOR SMALLER, LESS IMPOSING FIGURES...
BUT WHAT WOULD CAPTAIN AMERICA BE DOING HERE?
COULDN'T AFFORD BUSINESS CLASS, I GUESS! WHO CARES?
WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY,? HE'S A LIVING LEGEND, MAN! MY DAD SAYS HE WAS REALLY SOMETHING BACK IN WWII!
HE LOOKS SO YOUNG!
I HEARD HE WAS FROZEN IN ICE FOR YEARS--!
LIKE WALT DISNEY IS?
SUDDENLY...
THE BEYONDER IS ON EARTH...WESTERN U.S...THE WORLD, THE UNIVERSE IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER! HEAR ME! BELIEVE...
GOOD...LORD!
THAT WAS PROFESSOR X'S MENTAL "VOICE"! BUT IT SOUNDED...PAINED...FRANTIC ...MORE LIKE THE HYSTERICAL RAVINGS OF A MAN IN A FEVER DREAM THAN THE FIRM, CALM, MEASURED "VOICE" I'VE HEARD BEFORE!
NONETHELESS, I DARE NOT IGNORE THE WARNING! IF THERE'S THE TINIEST SHRED OF A CHANCE THAT SUCH A THING COULD BE TRUE--THEN I MUST ASSUME IT'S TRUE, AND TAKE ACTION!
SECONDS LATER, ON THE FLIGHT DECK...
YOU WANT US TO CHANGE COURSE FOR LOS ANGELES?
I'M SORRY, BUT I ASSURE YOU IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY! HERE'S MY AVENGERS PRIORITY CARD WHICH AUTHORIZES--
YOUR WORD IS ALL I NEED, CAP! YOU SEE, YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT, WELL... YOU SAVED MY WHOLE PLATOON FROM BEING OVERRUN BY THE NAZIS BACK IN NORMANDY! I OWE YOU ONE!
BUT, UH, WILL YOU PLEASE GO BACK AND EXPLAIN THIS TO THE PASSENGERS AFTER I MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT?
AND SO, MOMENTS LATER...
BUT, I'LL MISS MY CONNECTING FLIGHT!
I'M A LAWYER, AND I'M GOING TO SUE!
I DEMAND TO KNOW JUST WHAT THIS "WORLD EMERGENCY" IS!
LISTEN TO ME! THIS IS URGENT AND UNAVOIDABLE! YOU CAN HELP BY REMAINING CALM AND RETURNING TO YOUR SEATS! THIS IS THE TIME TO SET YOUR OWN CONCERNS ASIDE--FOR THE GOOD AND SAFETY OF THE ENTIRE WORLD!
BROTH-ER! GIMME SOME BUTTER AND SALT FOR THIS CORN!
AND, YET... THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GUY--! YOU JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE HIM... AND TRUST HIM!

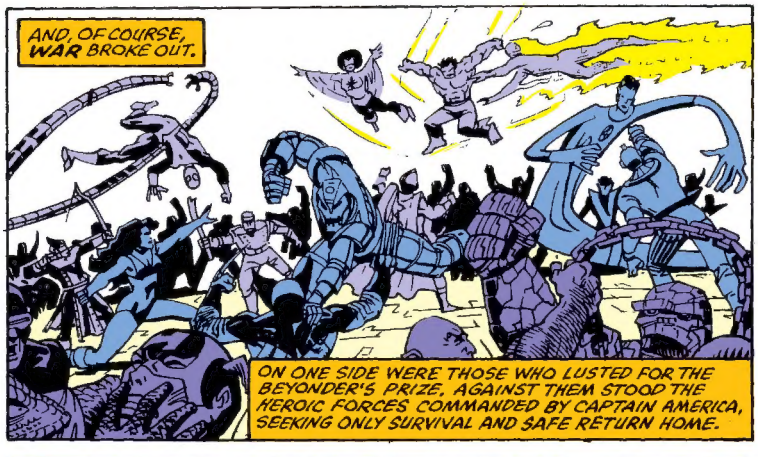

LATER...
HAVE YOU GOTTEN THE NECESSARY CLEARANCES FOR OUR CHANGE IN FLIGHT PLAN, CAPTAIN?
NO PROBLEM...ONCE I READ THEM THE CODE NUMBERS ON YOUR AVENGERS PRIORITY CARD!
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, CAP?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT...
...BECAUSE I'M HARDLY CERTAIN THAT I BELIEVE IT!

AS THE FLIGHT CONTINUES, CAPTAIN AMERICA SILENTLY REFLECTS UPON HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE BEYONDER--AND FOR THE THOUSANDTH TIME HE STRUGGLES TO ACCEPT AS TRUTH WHAT HE, HIMSELF, EXPERIENCED.

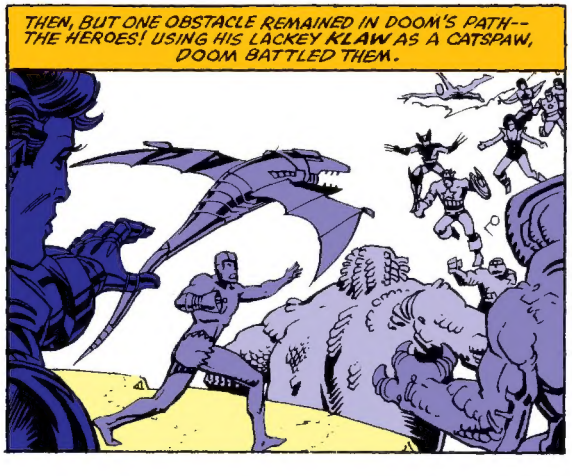
HE REMEMBERS BEING ABDUCTED TO A DISTANT POINT IN SPACE, ALONG WITH MANY OF THE MIGHTIEST BEINGS EVER TO TREAD THE EARTH--
--WHOSE COLLECTIVE POWER SUDDENLY SEEMED INSIGNIFICANT, AS THEIR MYSTERIOUS CAPTOR ANNIHILATED AN ENTIRE GALAXY BEFORE THEIR EYES.

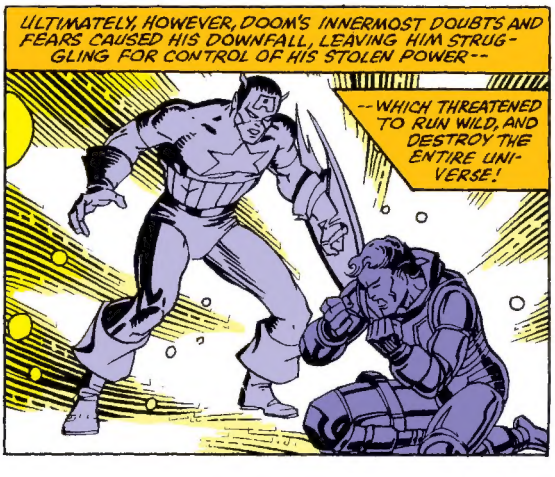

AND, HE REMEMBERS THE THUNDEROUS VOICE OF THE AUTHOR OF THAT COSMIC DESTRUCTION...
I AM FROM BEYOND!
SLAY YOUR ENEMIES AND ALL YOU DESIRE SHALL BE YOURS!
NOTHING YOU DREAM OF IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO ACCOMPLISH!
THUS SPOKE THE BEYONDER.

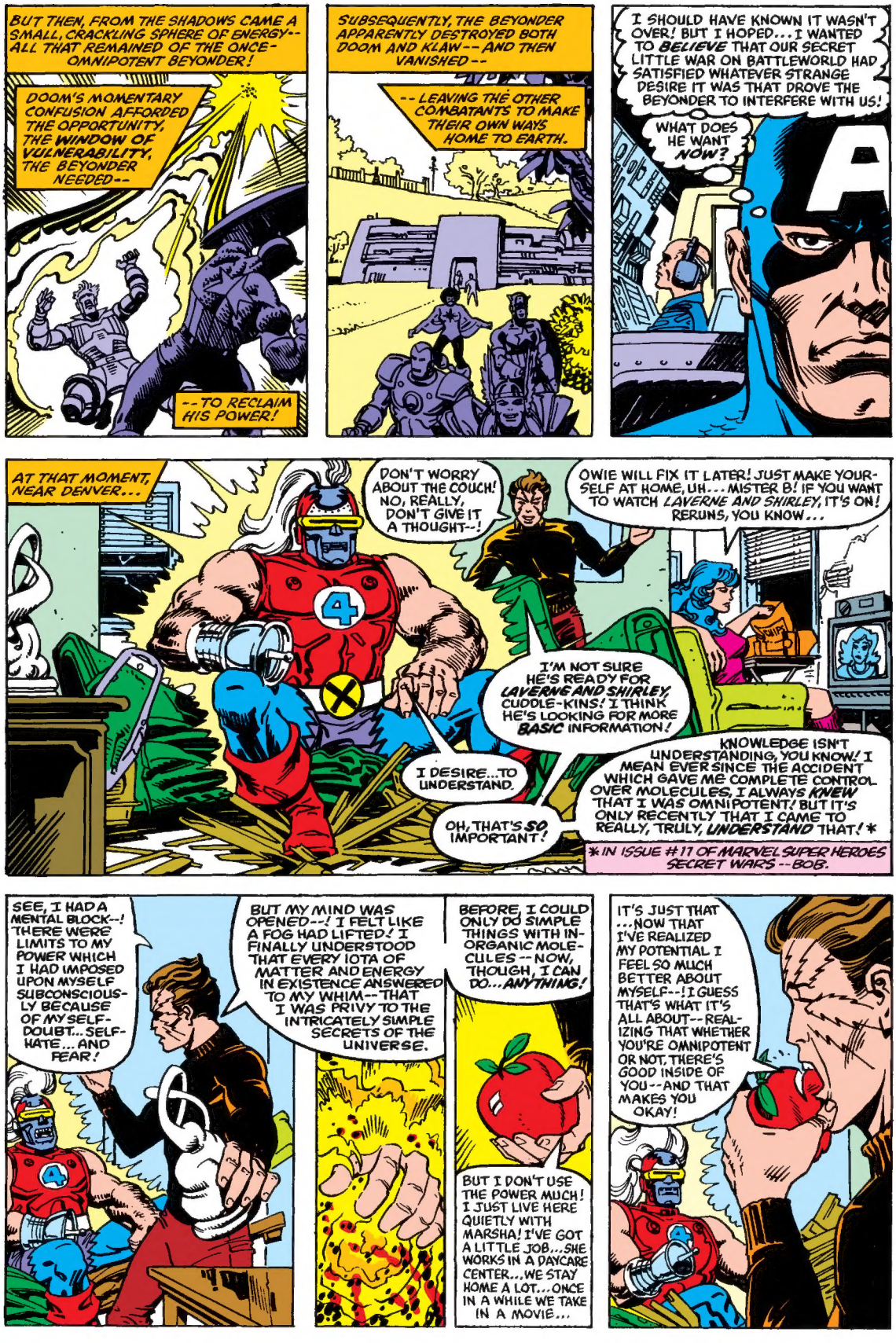


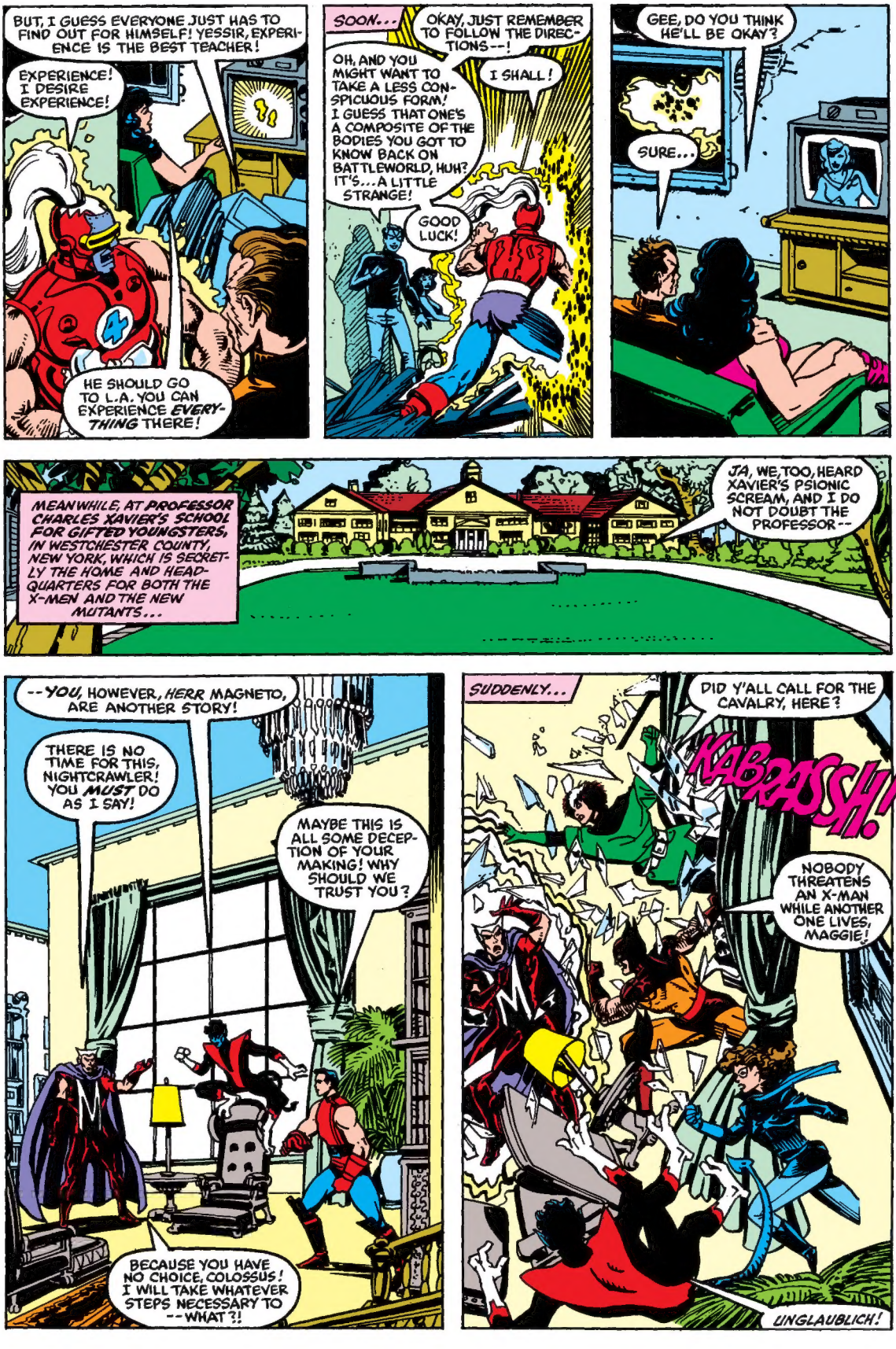

AND, OF COURSE, WAR BROKE OUT.
ON ONE SIDE WERE THOSE WHO LUSTED FOR THE BEYONDER'S PRIZE, AGAINST THEM STOOD THE HEROIC FORCES COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA, SEEKING ONLY SURVIVAL AND SAFE RETURN HOME.

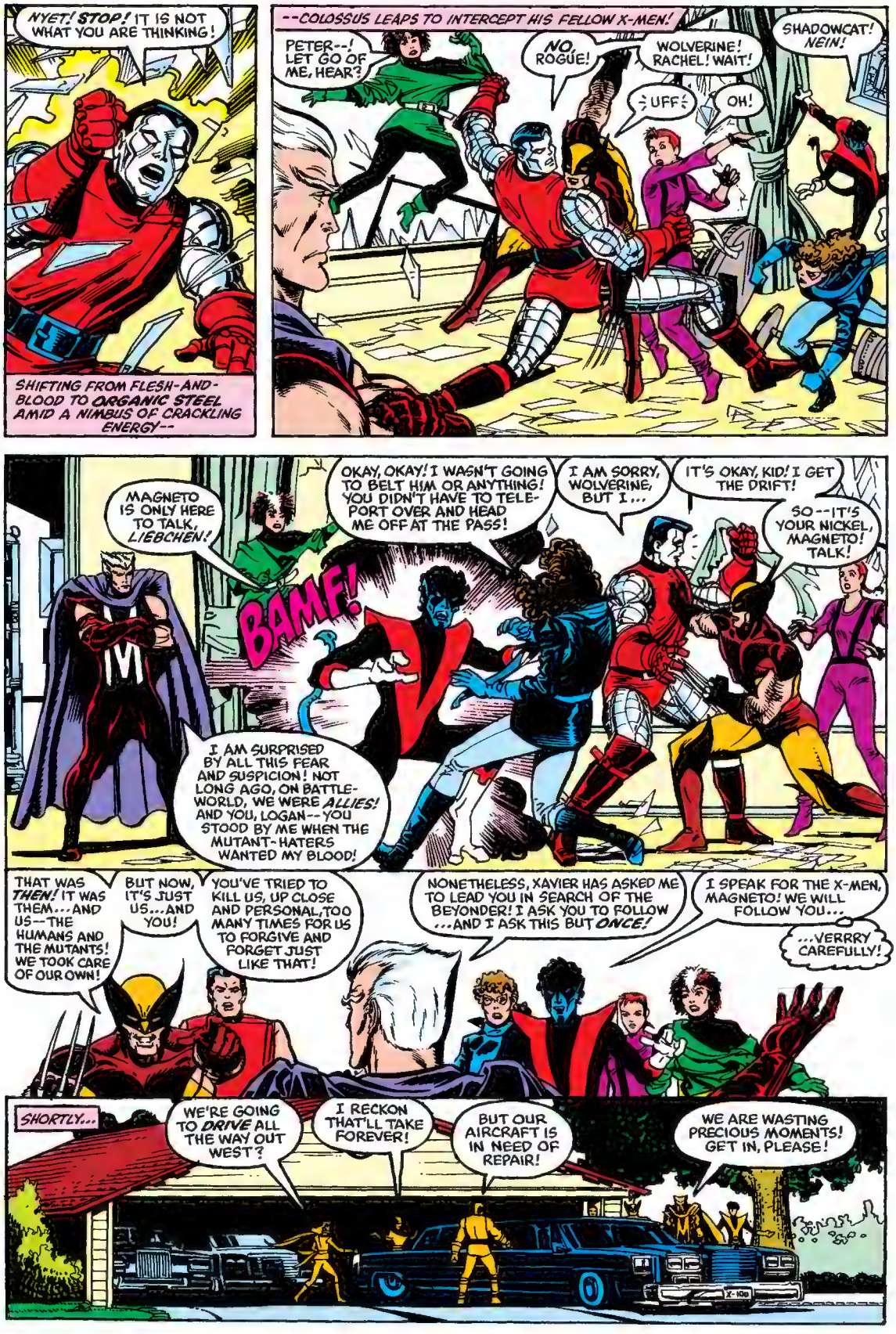
BUT ONE AMONG THEM DARED EVEN MORE! DOCTOR DOOM CONTRIVED AN ELABORATE, SINISTER PLAN TO ATTACK THE BEYONDER HIMSELF!
THOUGH NEARLY DESTROYED BY THE BEYONDER, DOOM MIRACULOUSLY SNATCHED VICTORY FROM NEAR CATASTROPHE--AND USURPED THE DEFEATED BEYONDER'S POWER, LEAVING HIM FOR DEAD!

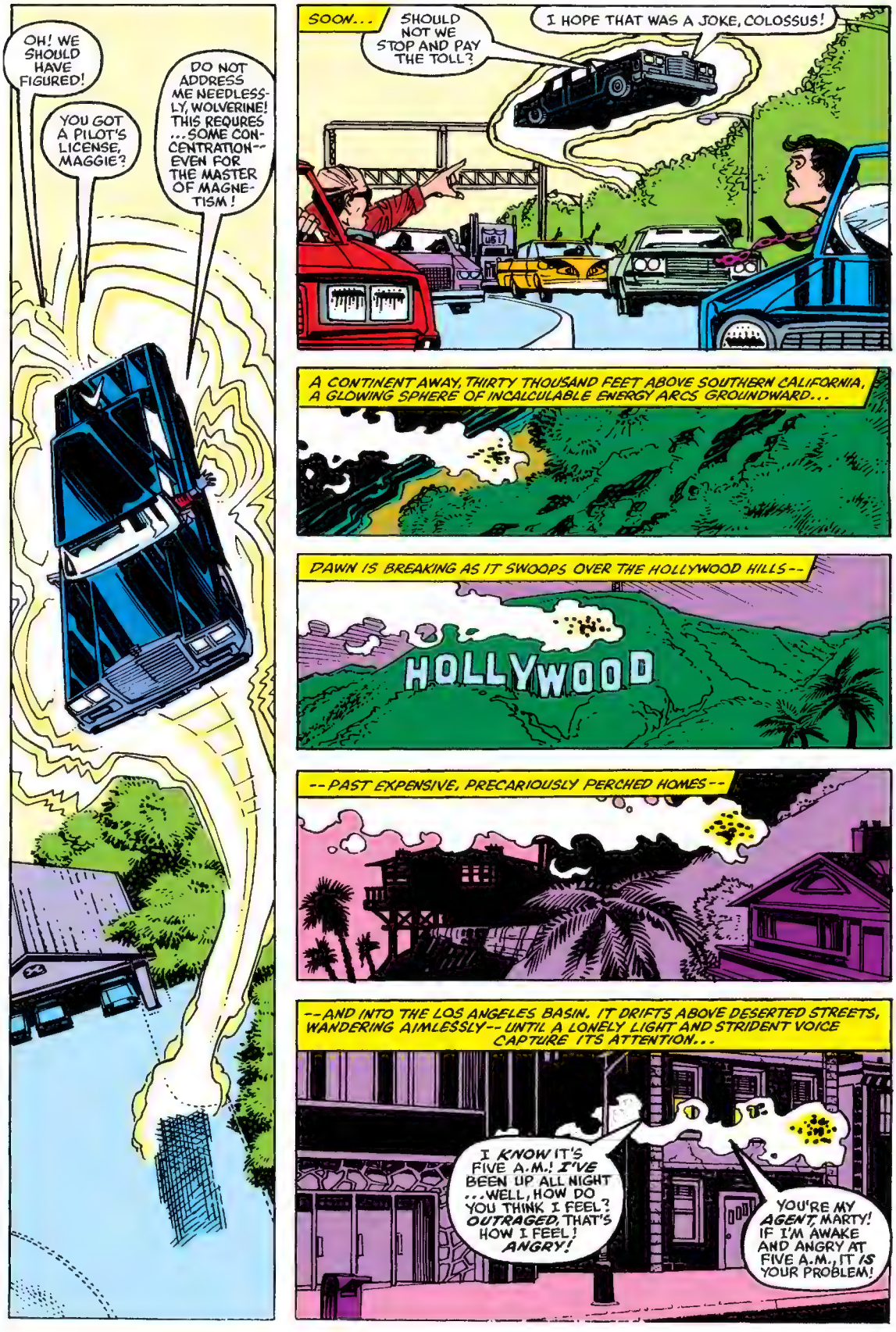


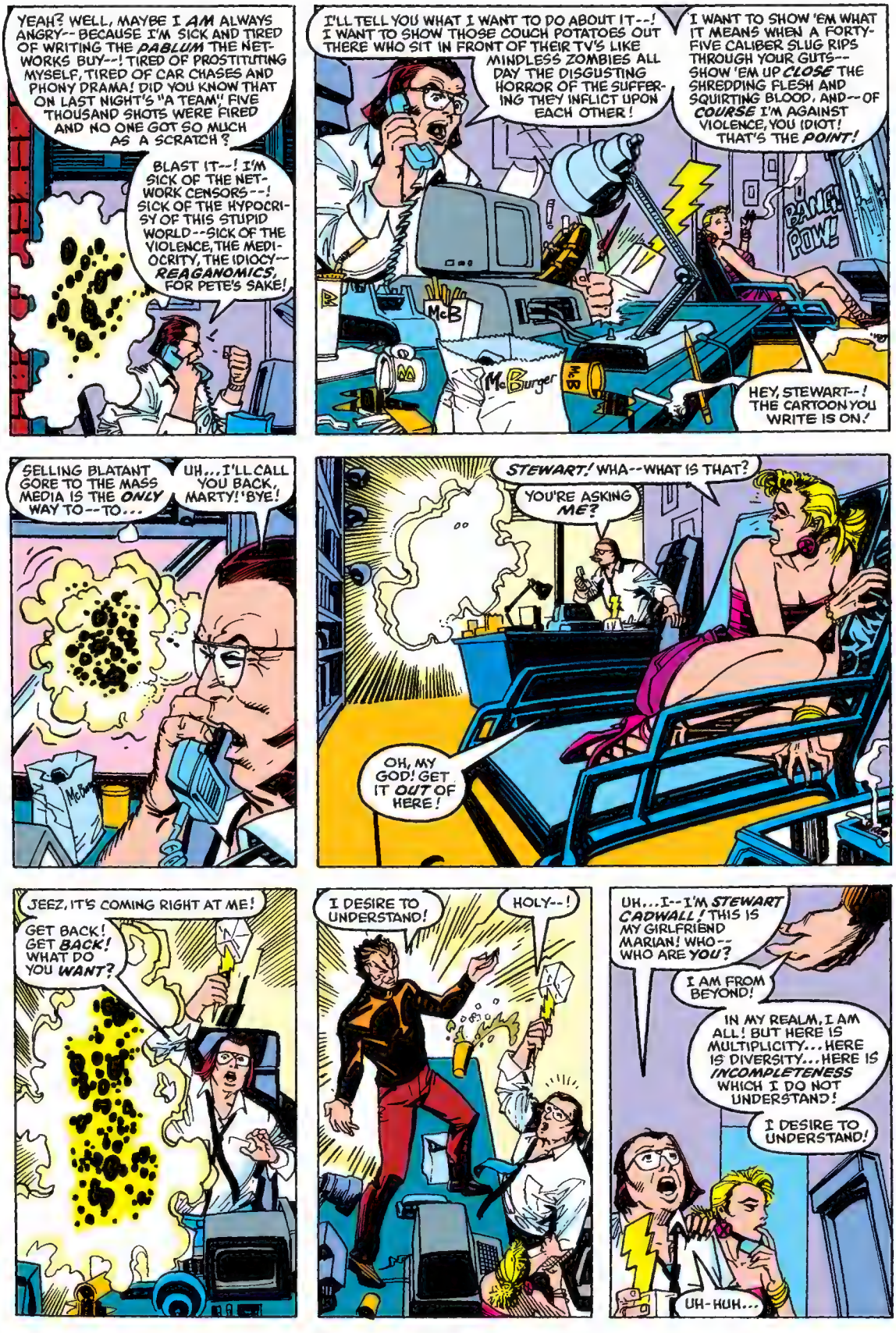

ULTIMATELY, HOWEVER, DOOM'S INNERMOST DOUBTS AND FEARS CAUSED HIS DOWNFALL, LEAVING HIM STRUGGLING FOR CONTROL OF HIS STOLEN POWER--
--WHICH THREATENED TO RUN WILD, AND DESTROY THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!


BUT THEN, FROM THE SHADOWS CAME A SMALL, CRACKLING SPHERE OF ENERGY--ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE ONCE-OMNIPOTENT BEYONDER!
DOOM'S MOMENTARY CONFUSION AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY, THE WINDOW OF VULNERABILITY, THE BEYONDER NEEDED--
--TO RECLAIM HIS POWER!
SUBSEQUENTLY, THE BEYONDER APPARENTLY DESTROYED BOTH DOOM AND KLAW--AND THEN VANISHED--
--LEAVING THE OTHER COMBATANTS TO MAKE THEIR OWN WAYS HOME TO EARTH.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WASN'T OVER! BUT I HOPED... I WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT OUR SECRET LITTLE WAR ON BATTLEWORLD HAD SATISFIED WHATEVER STRANGE DESIRE IT WAS THAT DROVE THE BEYONDER TO INTERFERE WITH US!
WHAT DOES HE WANT NOW?
AT THAT MOMENT, NEAR DENVER...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COUCH! NO, REALLY, DON'T GIVE IT A THOUGHT--!
OWIE WILL FIX IT LATER! JUST MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, UH... MISTER B! IF YOU WANT TO WATCH LAVERNE AND SHIRLEY, IT'S ON! RERUNS, YOU KNOW...
I'M NOT SURE HE'S READY FOR LAVERNE AND SHIRLEY, CUDDLE-KINS! I THINK HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE BASIC INFORMATION!
I DESIRE...TO UNDERSTAND.
OH, THAT'S SO IMPORTANT!
KNOWLEDGE ISN'T UNDERSTANDING, YOU KNOW! I MEAN EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT WHICH GAVE ME COMPLETE CONTROL OVER MOLECULES, I ALWAYS KNEW THAT I WAS OMNIPOTENT! BUT IT'S ONLY RECENTLY THAT I CAME TO REALLY, TRULY, UNDERSTAND THAT! *
* IN ISSUE #17 OF MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS --BOB.
SEE, I HAD A MENTAL BLOCK--! THERE WERE LIMITS TO MY POWER WHICH I HAD IMPOSED UPON MYSELF SUBCONSCIOUSLY BECAUSE OF MY SELF-DOUBT... SELF-HATE... AND FEAR!
BUT MY MIND WAS OPENED--! I FELT LIKE A FOG HAD LIFTED! I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT EVERY IOTA OF MATTER AND ENERGY IN EXISTENCE ANSWERED TO MY WHIM--THAT I WAS PRIVY TO THE INTRICATELY SIMPLE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE.
BEFORE, I COULD ONLY DO SIMPLE THINGS WITH INORGANIC MOLECULES--NOW, THOUGH, I CAN DO... ANYTHING!
BUT I DON'T USE THE POWER MUCH! I JUST LIVE HERE QUIETLY WITH MARSHA! I'VE GOT A LITTLE JOB... SHE WORKS IN A DAYCARE CENTER... WE STAY HOME A LOT... ONCE IN A WHILE WE TAKE IN A MOVIE...
IT'S JUST THAT ...NOW THAT I'VE REALIZED MY POTENTIAL I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER ABOUT MYSELF--! I GUESS THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT--REALIZING THAT WHETHER YOU'RE OMNIPOTENT OR NOT, THERE'S GOOD INSIDE OF YOU--AND THAT MAKES YOU OKAY!

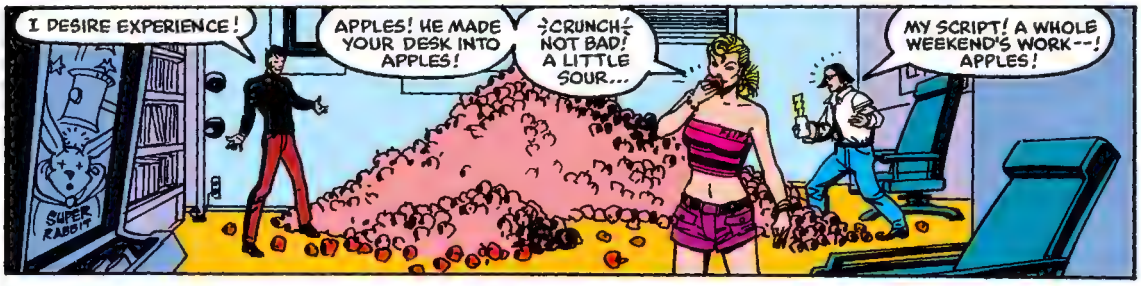

BUT, I GUESS EVERYONE JUST HAS TO FIND OUT FOR HIMSELF! YESSIR, EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER!
EXPERIENCE! I DESIRE EXPERIENCE!
HE SHOULD GO TO L.A. YOU CAN EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING THERE!
SOON...
OKAY, JUST REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS--!
I SHALL!
OH, AND YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A LESS CONSPICUOUS FORM! I GUESS THAT ONE'S A COMPOSITE OF THE BODIES YOU GOT TO KNOW BACK ON BATTLEWORLD, HUH? IT'S...A LITTLE STRANGE!
GOOD LUCK!
GEE, DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE OKAY?
SURE...
MEANWHILE, AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, WHICH IS SECRETLY THE HOME AND HEADQUARTERS FOR BOTH THE X-MEN AND THE NEW MUTANTS...
JA, WE, TOO, HEARD XAVIER'S PSIONIC SCREAM, AND I DO NOT DOUBT THE PROFESSOR--
--YOU, HOWEVER, HERR MAGNETO, ARE ANOTHER STORY!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR THIS, NIGHTCRAWLER! YOU MUST DO AS I SAY!
MAYBE THIS IS ALL SOME DECEPTION OF YOUR MAKING! WHY SHOULD WE TRUST YOU?
BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, COLOSSUS! I WILL TAKE WHATEVER STEPS NECESSARY TO--
--WHAT?!
SUDDENLY...
DID Y'ALL CALL FOR THE CAVALRY, HERE?
KABRASSH!
NOBODY THREATENS AN X-MAN WHILE ANOTHER ONE LIVES, MAGGIE!
UNGLAUBLICH!

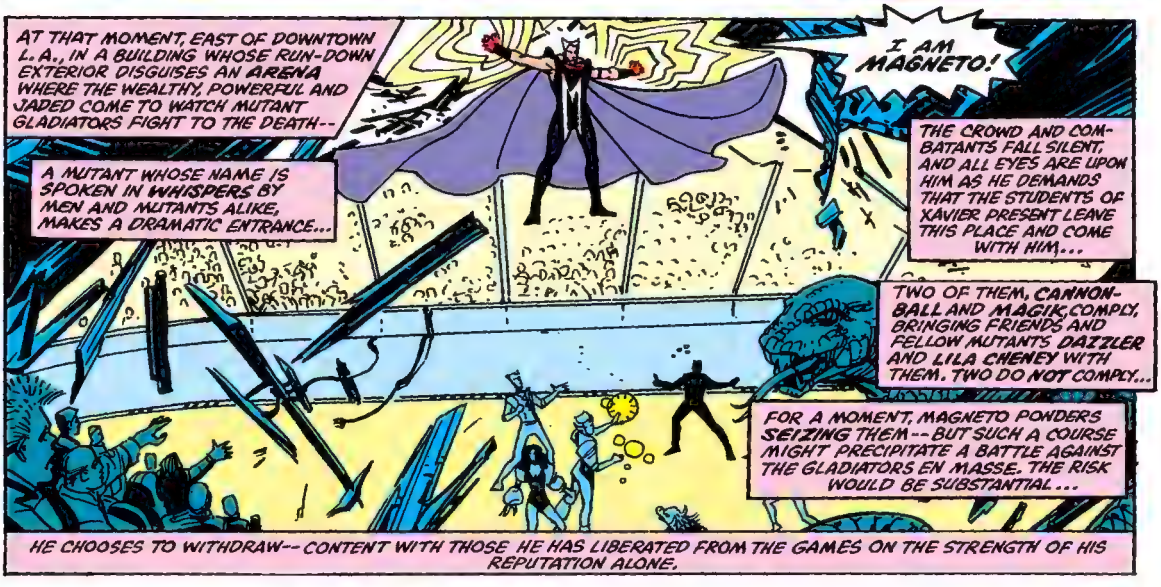

NYET! STOP! IT IS NOT WHAT YOU ARE THINKING!
SHIFTING FROM FLESH-AND-BLOOD TO ORGANIC STEEL AMID A NIMBUS OF CRACKLING ENERGY--
--COLOSSUS LEAPS TO INTERCEPT HIS FELLOW X-MEN!
PETER--! LET GO OF ME, HEAR?
NO, ROGUE!
WOLVERINE! RACHEL! WAIT!
SHADOWCAT! NEIN!
÷UFF÷
OH!
MAGNETO IS ONLY HERE TO TALK, LIEBCHEN!
BAMF!
OKAY, OKAY! I WASN'T GOING TO BELT HIM OR ANYTHING! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELE-PORT OVER AND HEAD ME OFF AT THE PASS!
I AM SORRY, WOLVERINE, BUT I...
IT'S OKAY, KID! I GET THE DRIFT!
SO--IT'S YOUR NICKEL, MAGNETO! TALK!
I AM SURPRISED BY ALL THIS FEAR AND SUSPICION! NOT LONG AGO, ON BATTLE-WORLD, WE WERE ALLIES! AND YOU, LOGAN--YOU STOOD BY ME WHEN THE MUTANT-HATERS WANTED MY BLOOD!
THAT WAS THEN! IT WAS THEM...AND US--THE HUMANS AND THE MUTANTS! WE TOOK CARE OF OUR OWN!
BUT NOW, IT'S JUST US...AND YOU!
YOU'VE TRIED TO KILL US, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL, TOO MANY TIMES FOR US TO FORGIVE AND FORGET JUST LIKE THAT!
NONETHELESS, XAVIER HAS ASKED ME TO LEAD YOU IN SEARCH OF THE BEYONDER! I ASK YOU TO FOLLOW ...AND I ASK THIS BUT ONCE!
I SPEAK FOR THE X-MEN, MAGNETO! WE WILL FOLLOW YOU...
...VERRRY CAREFULLY!
SHORTLY...
WE'RE GOING TO DRIVE ALL THE WAY OUT WEST?
I RECKON THAT'LL TAKE FOREVER!
BUT OUR AIRCRAFT IS IN NEED OF REPAIR!
WE ARE WASTING PRECIOUS MOMENTS! GET IN, PLEASE!
X-100

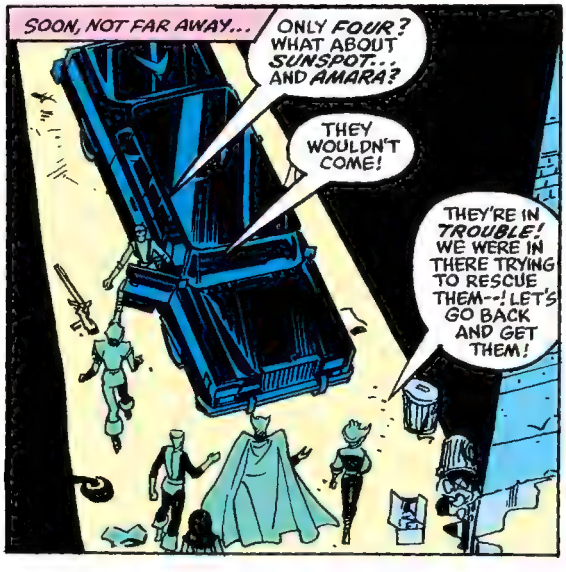

OH! WE SHOULD HAVE FIGURED!
YOU GOT A PILOT'S LICENSE, MAGGIE?
DO NOT ADDRESS ME NEEDLESSLY, WOLVERINE! THIS REQURES ...SOME CONCENTRATION-- EVEN FOR THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM!
SOON...
SHOULD NOT WE STOP AND PAY THE TOLL?
I HOPE THAT WAS A JOKE, COLOSSUS!
A CONTINENT AWAY, THIRTY THOUSAND FEET ABOVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, A GLOWING SPHERE OF INCALCULABLE ENERGY ARCS GROUNDWARD...
DAWN IS BREAKING AS IT SWOOPS OVER THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS--
HOLLYWOOD
--PAST EXPENSIVE, PRECARIOUSLY PERCHED HOMES--
--AND INTO THE LOS ANGELES BASIN. IT DRIFTS ABOVE DESERTED STREETS, WANDERING AIMLESSLY-- UNTIL A LONELY LIGHT AND STRIDENT VOICE CAPTURE ITS ATTENTION...
I KNOW IT'S FIVE A.M.! I'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT ...WELL, HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL? OUTRAGED, THAT'S HOW I FEEL! ANGRY!
YOU'RE MY AGENT, MARTY! IF I'M AWAKE AND ANGRY AT FIVE A.M., IT IS YOUR PROBLEM!


YEAH? WELL, MAYBE I AM ALWAYS ANGRY--BECAUSE I'M SICK AND TIRED OF WRITING THE PABLUM THE NETWORKS BUY--! TIRED OF PROSTITUTING MYSELF, TIRED OF CAR CHASES AND PHONY DRAMA! DID YOU KNOW THAT ON LAST NIGHT'S "A TEAM" FIVE THOUSAND SHOTS WERE FIRED AND NO ONE GOT SO MUCH AS A SCRATCH?
BLAST IT--! I'M SICK OF THE NETWORK CENSORS--! SICK OF THE HYPOCRISY OF THIS STUPID WORLD--SICK OF THE VIOLENCE, THE MEDIOCRITY, THE IDIOCY--REAGANOMICS, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I WANT TO DO ABOUT IT--! I WANT TO SHOW THOSE COUCH POTATOES OUT THERE WHO SIT IN FRONT OF THEIR TV'S LIKE MINDLESS ZOMBIES ALL DAY THE DISGUSTING HORROR OF THE SUFFERING THEY INFLICT UPON EACH OTHER!
I WANT TO SHOW 'EM WHAT IT MEANS WHEN A FORTY-FIVE CALIBER SLUG RIPS THROUGH YOUR GUTS--SHOW 'EM UP CLOSE THE SHREDDING FLESH AND SQUIRTING BLOOD, AND--OF COURSE I'M AGAINST VIOLENCE, YOU IDIOT! THAT'S THE POINT!
BANG! POW!
McB
McBurger
HEY, STEWART--! THE CARTOON YOU WRITE IS ON!
SELLING BLATANT GORE TO THE MASS MEDIA IS THE ONLY WAY TO--TO...
UH...I'LL CALL YOU BACK, MARTY! 'BYE!
STEWART! WHA--WHAT IS THAT?
YOU'RE ASKING ME?
OH, MY GOD! GET IT OUT OF HERE!
JEEZ, IT'S COMING RIGHT AT ME!
GET BACK! GET BACK! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND!
HOLY--!
UH...I--I'M STEWART CADWALL! THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND MARIAN! WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
I AM FROM BEYOND!
IN MY REALM, I AM ALL! BUT HERE IS MULTIPLICITY...HERE IS DIVERSITY...HERE IS INCOMPLETENESS WHICH I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
I DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND!
UH-HUH...

TO UNDERSTAND IS SO IMPORTANT! KNOWLEDGE IS NOT UNDERSTANDING! EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER!
I CAN DO... ANYTHING!
HEY! MY DESK--! MY WORD PROCESSOR--! MY SCRIPT--!

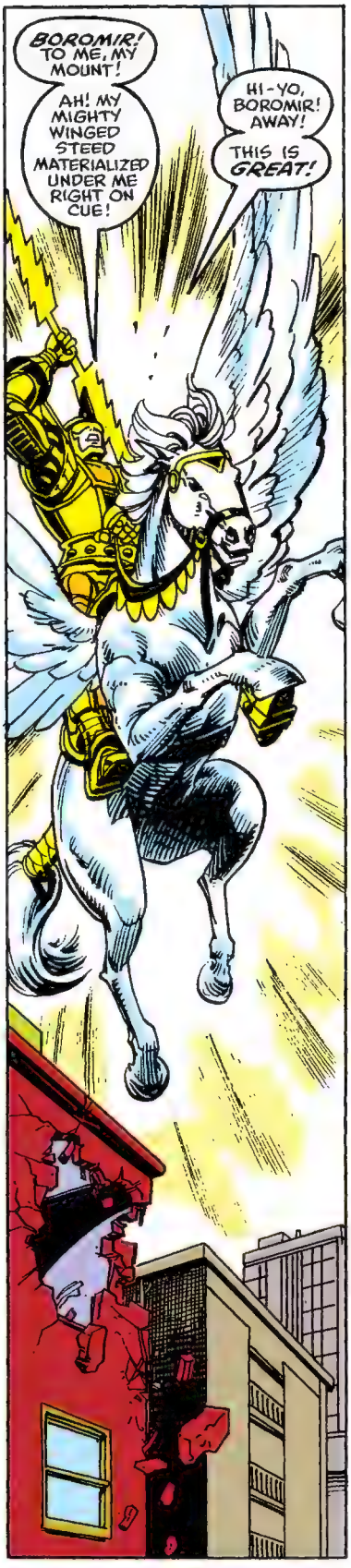

I DESIRE EXPERIENCE!
APPLES! HE MADE YOUR DESK INTO APPLES!
CRUNCH NOT BAD! A LITTLE SOUR...
MY SCRIPT! A WHOLE WEEKEND'S WORK--! APPLES!
SUPER RABBIT

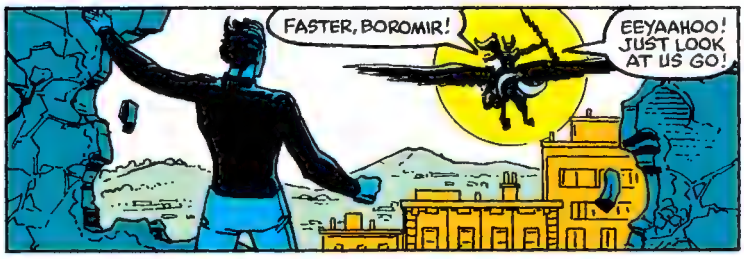

AT THAT MOMENT, EAST OF DOWNTOWN L.A., IN A BUILDING WHOSE RUN-DOWN EXTERIOR DISGUISES AN ARENA WHERE THE WEALTHY, POWERFUL AND JADED COME TO WATCH MUTANT GLADIATORS FIGHT TO THE DEATH--
I AM MAGNETO!
A MUTANT WHOSE NAME IS SPOKEN IN WHISPERS BY MEN AND MUTANTS ALIKE, MAKES A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE...
THE CROWD AND COMBATANTS FALL SILENT, AND ALL EYES ARE UPON HIM AS HE DEMANDS THAT THE STUDENTS OF XAVIER PRESENT LEAVE THIS PLACE AND COME WITH HIM...
TWO OF THEM, CANNONBALL AND MAGIK, COMPLY, BRINGING FRIENDS AND FELLOW MUTANTS DAZZLER AND LILA CHENEY WITH THEM. TWO DO NOT COMPLY...
FOR A MOMENT, MAGNETO PONDERS SEIZING THEM--BUT SUCH A COURSE MIGHT PRECIPITATE A BATTLE AGAINST THE GLADIATORS EN MASSE. THE RISK WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL...
HE CHOOSES TO WITHDRAW--CONTENT WITH THOSE HE HAS LIBERATED FROM THE GAMES ON THE STRENGTH OF HIS REPUTATION ALONE.

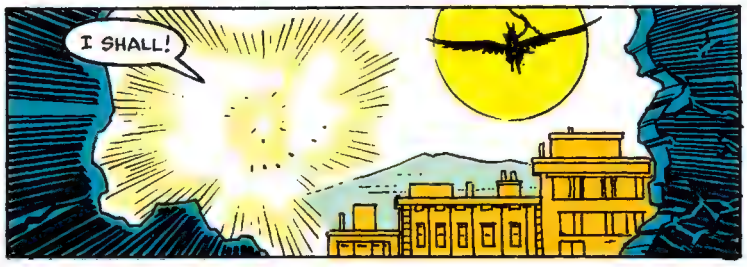

SOON, NOT FAR AWAY...
ONLY FOUR? WHAT ABOUT SUNSPOT... AND AMARA?
THEY WOULDN'T COME!
THEY'RE IN TROUBLE! WE WERE IN THERE TRYING TO RESCUE THEM--! LET'S GO BACK AND GET THEM!

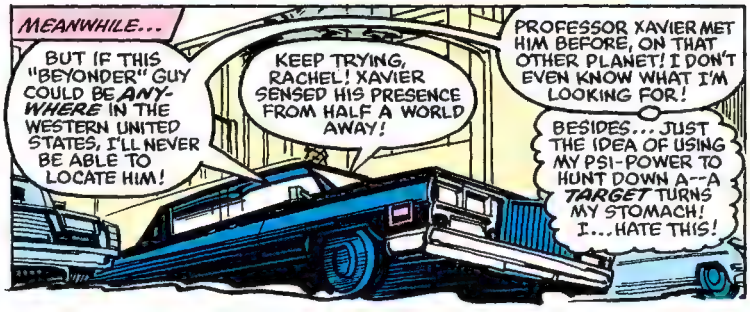
WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! WE MUST FIND THE BEYONDER AT ONCE! XAVIER SENSED HIS ARRIVAL ON EARTH--PERHAPS YOU, RACHEL, CAN USE YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES TO PINPOINT HIM!
BUT... WHO IS THE BEYONDER?
I SHALL EXPLAIN AS WE GO! GET INTO THE CAR!

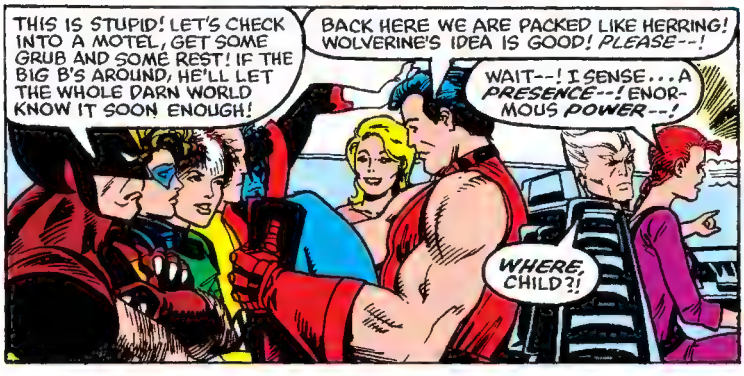
AT THAT MOMENT, IN STEWART GADWALL'S APARTMENT...
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT--YOU COULD DO ANYTHING YOU WANT--BUT YOU DON'T QUITE GROK WHAT IT IS TO WANT SOMETHING? WILD!
I SURE KNOW WHAT I WANT! BOY, IF I HAD POWER--!
YOU WANT TO SEE SOME DESIRE MADE INTO REALITY--? YOU WANT TO SEE WISH-FULFILLMENT IN ACTION--? WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME SOME POWER?!
I SHALL!
HOLY--! MY SHAZAM AWARD--! IT'S ...TRANS-FORMING!
AND SO AM I!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
GEEZ! THIS BEATS DIETING!
LOOK AT ME! HE MADE ME INTO WHAT I'VE ALWAYS FANTASIZED--! A CRUSADING SUPER HERO--! BEHOLD... THUNDER-SWORD!
MARIAN! LOOK! HEY, BABE--!
HUH? SHE'S ASLEEP! OH, WELL...
I'LL SHOW HER LATER! RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!
THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'M GOING TO STRAIGHTEN OUT IN THIS WORLD!
KA-THOOM!

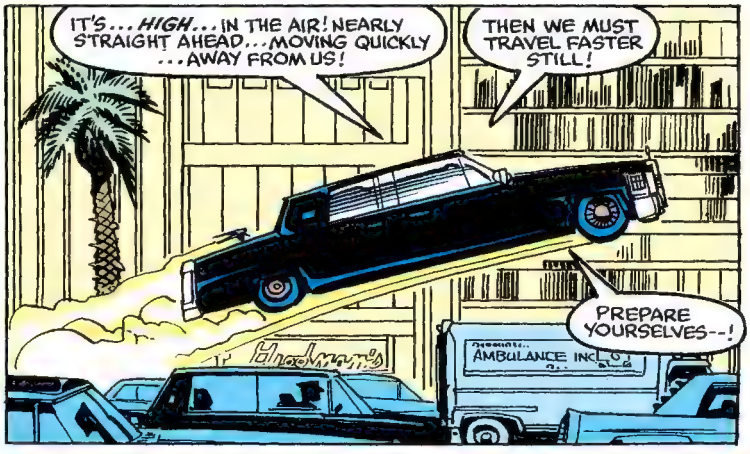

BOROMIR! TO ME, MY MOUNT!
AH! MY MIGHTY WINGED STEED MATERIALIZED UNDER ME RIGHT ON CUE!
HI-YO, BOROMIR! AWAY!
THIS IS GREAT!

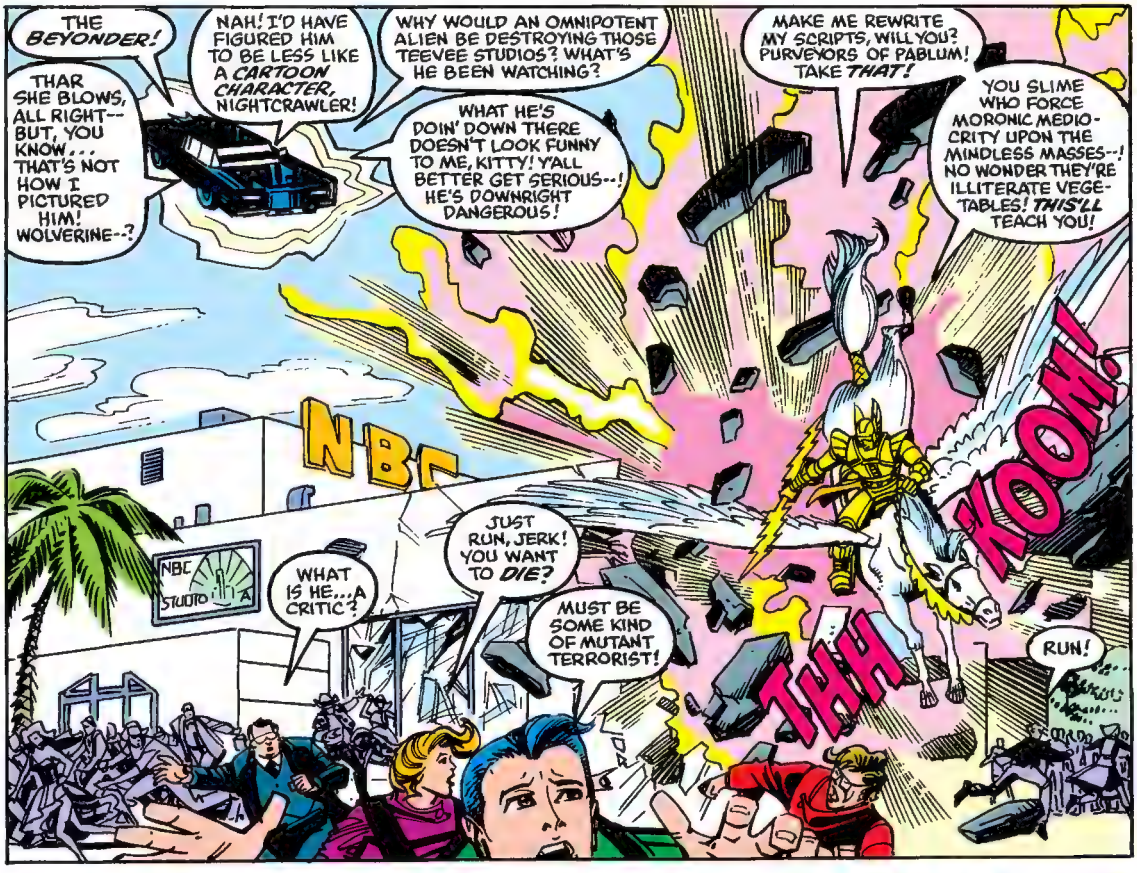

FASTER, BOROMIR!
EEYAAHOO! JUST LOOK AT US GO!

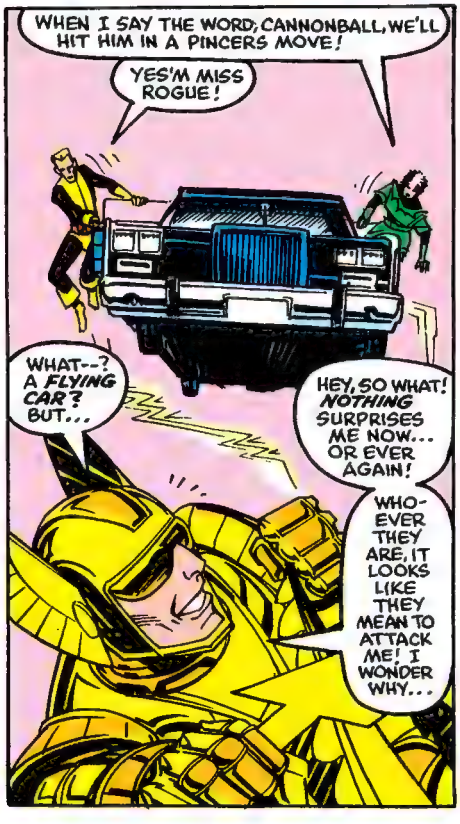

I SHALL!


MEANWHILE...
BUT IF THIS "BEYONDER" GUY COULD BE ANY-WHERE IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LOCATE HIM!
KEEP TRYING, RACHEL! XAVIER SENSED HIS PRESENCE FROM HALF A WORLD AWAY!
PROFESSOR XAVIER MET HIM BEFORE, ON THAT OTHER PLANET! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!
BESIDES... JUST THE IDEA OF USING MY PSI-POWER TO HUNT DOWN A--A TARGET TURNS MY STOMACH! I...HATE THIS!

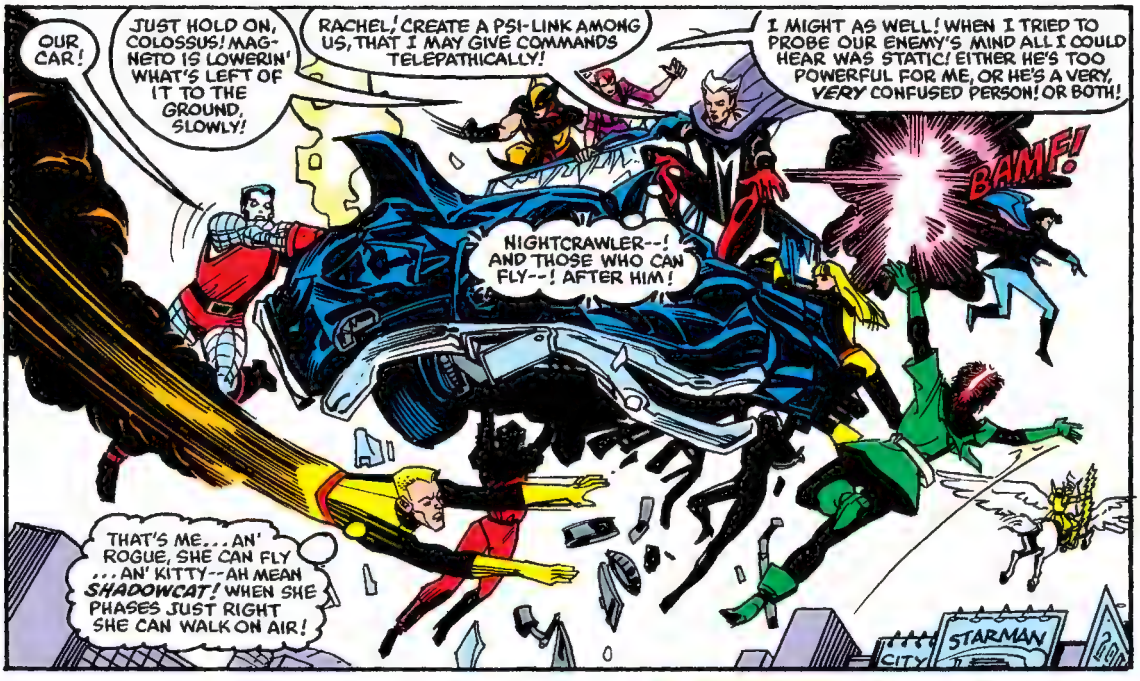

THIS IS STUPID! LET'S CHECK INTO A MOTEL, GET SOME GRUB AND SOME REST! IF THE BIG B'S AROUND, HE'LL LET THE WHOLE DARN WORLD KNOW IT SOON ENOUGH!
BACK HERE WE ARE PACKED LIKE HERRING! WOLVERINE'S IDEA IS GOOD! PLEASE--!
WAIT--! I SENSE... A PRESENCE--! ENORMOUS POWER--!
WHERE, CHILD?!

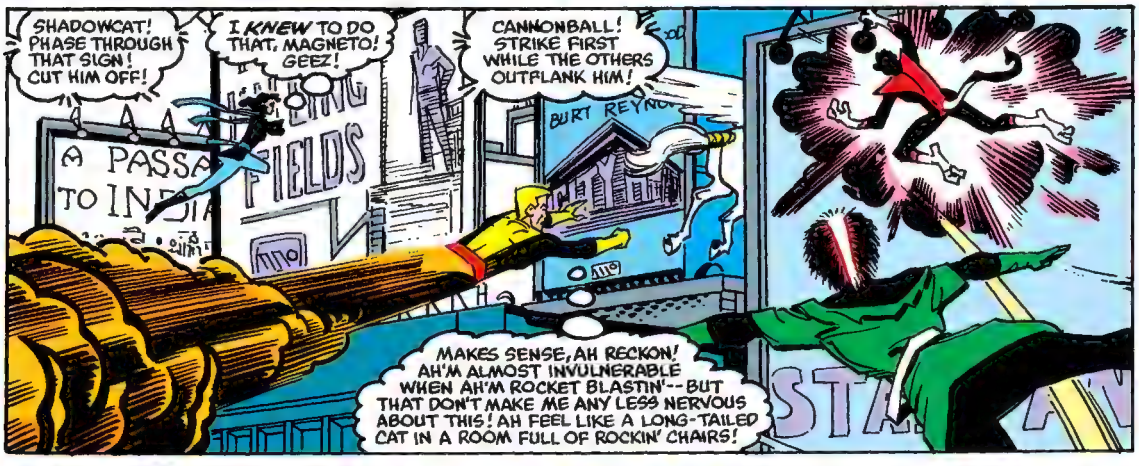

IT'S... HIGH... IN THE AIR! NEARLY STRAIGHT AHEAD... MOVING QUICKLY ...AWAY FROM US!
THEN WE MUST TRAVEL FASTER STILL!
PREPARE YOURSELVES--!
AMBULANCE INC.


THE BEYONDER!
THAR SHE BLOWS, ALL RIGHT--BUT, YOU KNOW... THAT'S NOT HOW I PICTURED HIM! WOLVERINE--?
NAH! I'D HAVE FIGURED HIM TO BE LESS LIKE A CARTOON CHARACTER, NIGHTCRAWLER!
WHY WOULD AN OMNIPOTENT ALIEN BE DESTROYING THOSE TEEVEE STUDIOS? WHAT'S HE BEEN WATCHING?
WHAT HE'S DOIN' DOWN THERE DOESN'T LOOK FUNNY TO ME, KITTY! Y'ALL BETTER GET SERIOUS--! HE'S DOWNRIGHT DANGEROUS!
MAKE ME REWRITE MY SCRIPTS, WILL YOU? PURVEYORS OF PABLUM! TAKE THAT!
YOU SLIME WHO FORCE MORONIC MEDIOCRITY UPON THE MINDLESS MASSES--! NO WONDER THEY'RE ILLITERATE VEGETABLES! THIS'LL TEACH YOU!
NBC
NBC STUDIO A
WHAT IS HE...A CRITIC?
JUST RUN, JERK! YOU WANT TO DIE?
MUST BE SOME KIND OF MUTANT TERRORIST!
KOOM!
THH
RUN!

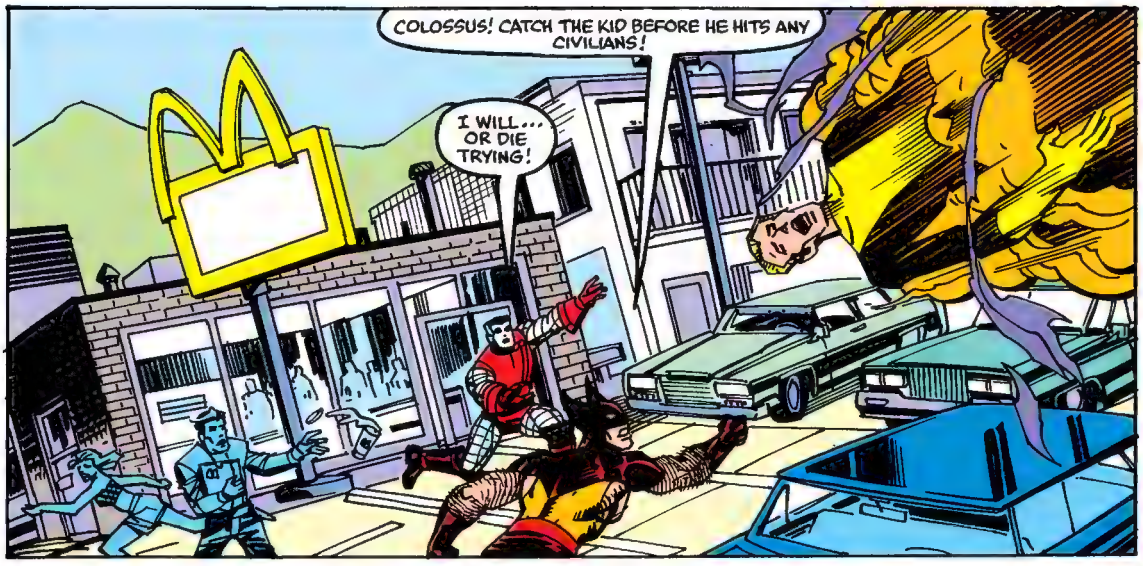

WHEN I SAY THE WORD; CANNONBALL, WE'LL HIT HIM IN A PINCERS MOVE!
YES'M MISS ROGUE!
WHAT--? A FLYING CAR? BUT...
HEY, SO WHAT! NOTHING SURPRISES ME NOW... OR EVER AGAIN!
WHO-EVER THEY ARE, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MEAN TO ATTACK ME! I WONDER WHY...

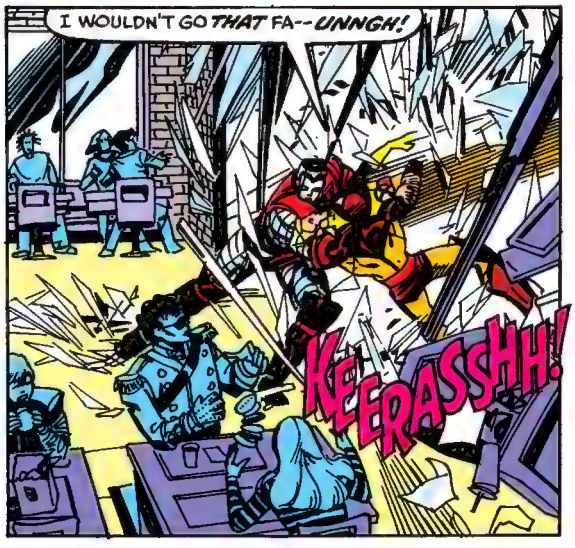
SHRREKK!
OH, WELL... IT'S THEIR PROBLEM!
EEYOWW!


OUR CAR!
JUST HOLD ON, COLOSSUS! MAGNETO IS LOWERIN' WHAT'S LEFT OF IT TO THE GROUND, SLOWLY!
RACHEL! CREATE A PSI-LINK AMONG US, THAT I MAY GIVE COMMANDS TELEPATHICALLY!
I MIGHT AS WELL! WHEN I TRIED TO PROBE OUR ENEMY'S MIND ALL I COULD HEAR WAS STATIC! EITHER HE'S TOO POWERFUL FOR ME, OR HE'S A VERY, VERY CONFUSED PERSON! OR BOTH!
BAMF!
NIGHTCRAWLER--! AND THOSE WHO CAN FLY--! AFTER HIM!
THAT'S ME... AN' ROGUE, SHE CAN FLY ... AN' KITTY--AH MEAN SHADOWCAT! WHEN SHE PHASES JUST RIGHT SHE CAN WALK ON AIR!
STARMAN CITY

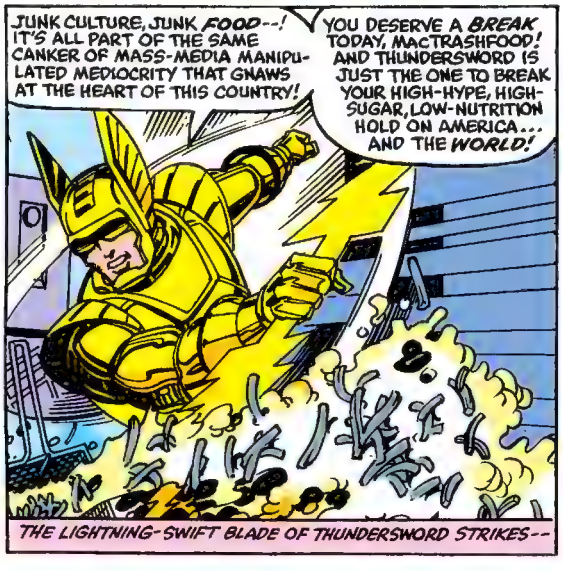

SHADOWCAT! PHASE THROUGH THAT SIGN! CUT HIM OFF!
I KNEW TO DO THAT, MAGNETO! GEEZ!
CANNONBALL! STRIKE FIRST WHILE THE OTHERS OUTFLANK HIM!
FIELDS
MAKES SENSE, AH RECKON! AH'M ALMOST INVULNERABLE WHEN AH'M ROCKET BLASTIN'--BUT THAT DON'T MAKE ME ANY LESS NERVOUS ABOUT THIS! AH FEEL LIKE A LONG-TAILED CAT IN A ROOM FULL OF ROCKIN' CHAIRS!

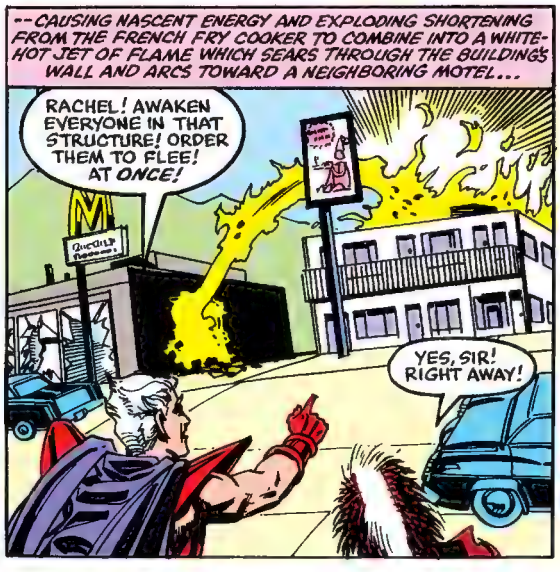
LOOK OUT!
SHABOOM!
MEIN GOTT! ROGUE TOOK THE BRUNT OF THAT THUNDERSTROKE, ALONG WITH CANNONBALL! IF SHE'S HURT--!

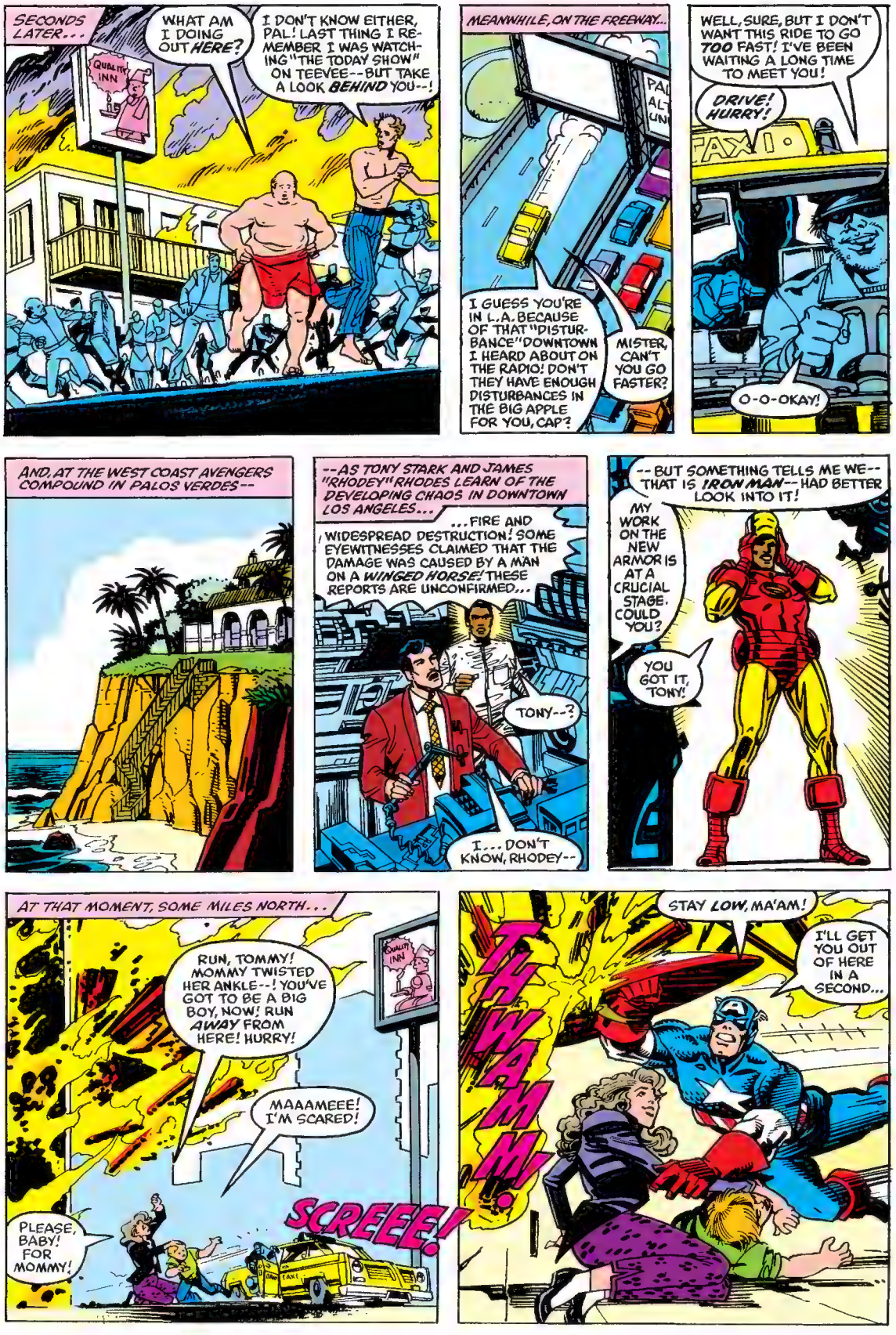

COLOSSUS! CATCH THE KID BEFORE HE HITS ANY CIVILIANS!
I WILL... OR DIE TRYING!

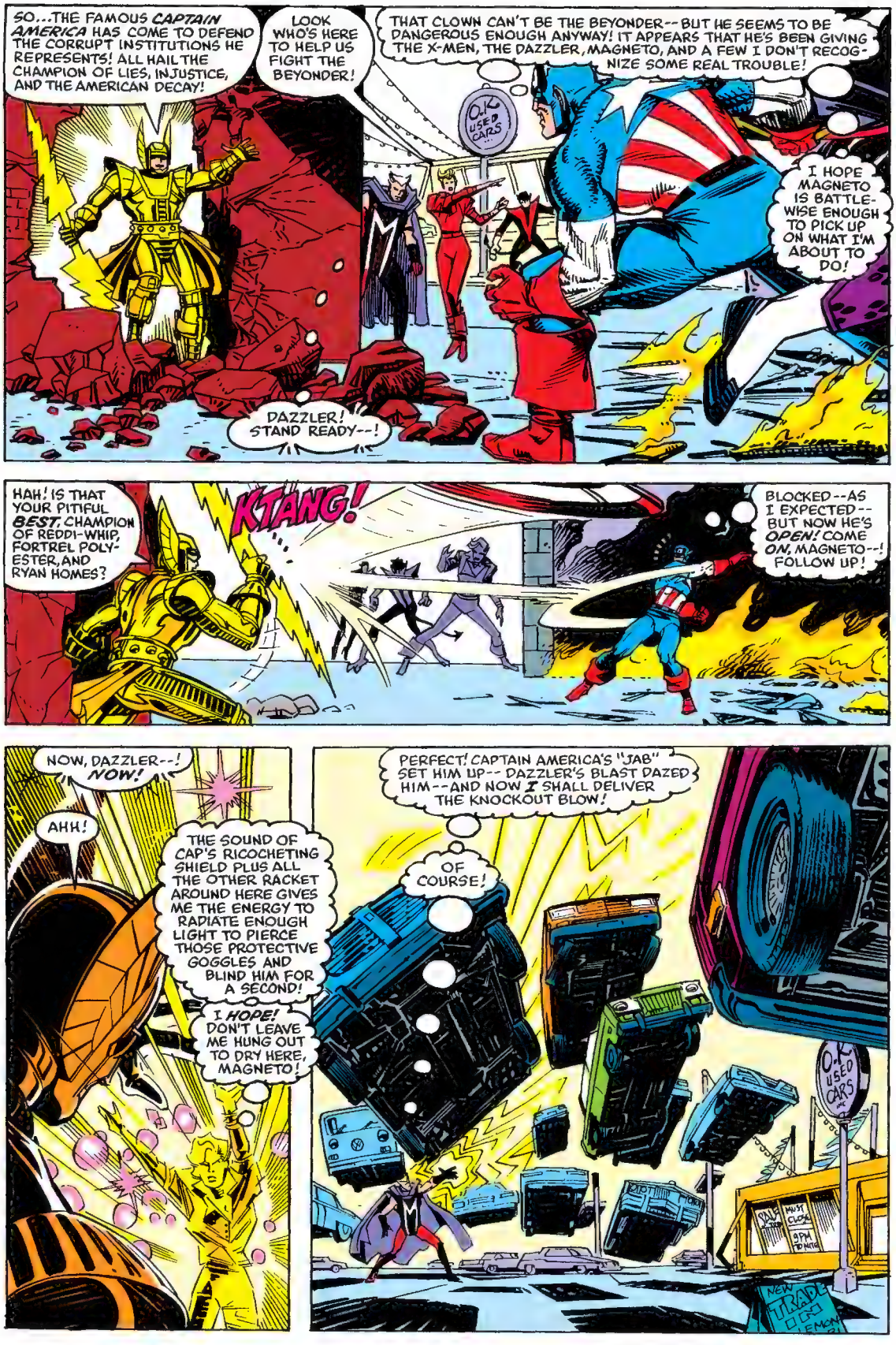

I WOULDN'T GO THAT FA--UNNGH!
KEERASSHH!

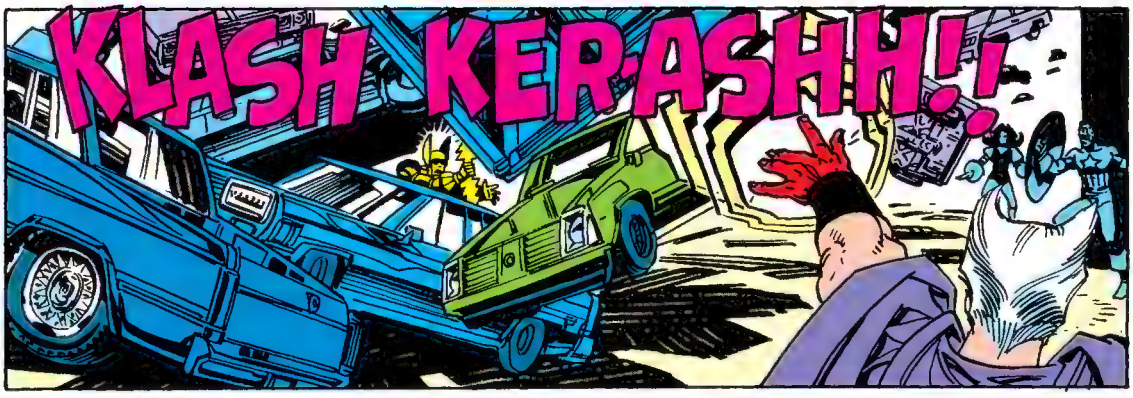
HEY! GO WRECK A BURGER KING, WILL YOU? I'M WORKING MY WAY THROUGH GRAD SCHOOL HERE!
MACBURGERS--! GARBAGE!
WHAT?! I LOVE THE BIG MACS. AND THE MACFRIES ARE THE BEST!
THIS GUY'S THE BEYONDER?

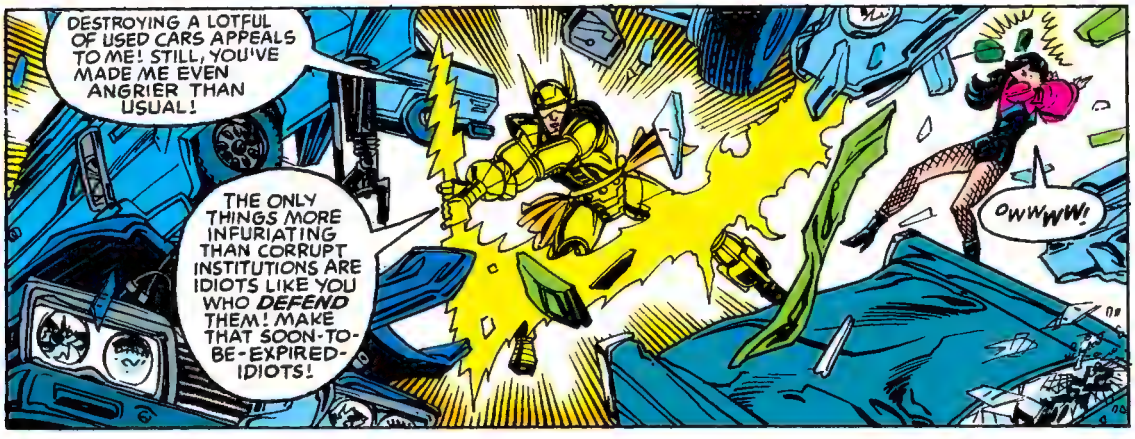

JUNK CULTURE, JUNK FOOD--! IT'S ALL PART OF THE SAME CANKER OF MASS-MEDIA MANIPULATED MEDIOCRITY THAT GNAWS AT THE HEART OF THIS COUNTRY!
YOU DESERVE A BREAK TODAY, MACTRASHFOOD! AND THUNDERSWORD IS JUST THE ONE TO BREAK YOUR HIGH-HYPE, HIGH-SUGAR, LOW-NUTRITION HOLD ON AMERICA... AND THE WORLD!
THE LIGHTNING-SWIFT BLADE OF THUNDERSWORD STRIKES--


--CAUSING NASCENT ENERGY AND EXPLODING SHORTENING FROM THE FRENCH FRY COOKER TO COMBINE INTO A WHITE-HOT JET OF FLAME WHICH SEARS THROUGH THE BUILDING'S WALL AND ARCS TOWARD A NEIGHBORING MOTEL...
RACHEL! AWAKEN EVERYONE IN THAT STRUCTURE! ORDER THEM TO FLEE! AT ONCE!
YES, SIR! RIGHT AWAY!

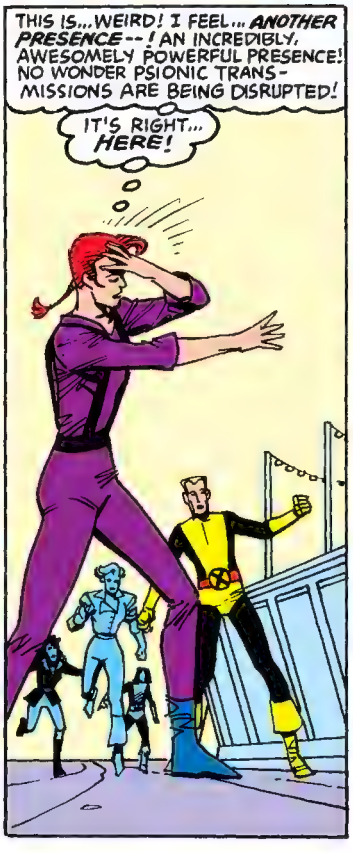

SECONDS LATER...
WHAT AM I DOING OUT HERE?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER, PAL! LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS WATCHING "THE TODAY SHOW" ON TEEVEE--BUT TAKE A LOOK BEHIND YOU--!
QUALITY INN
MEANWHILE, ON THE FREEWAY...
I GUESS YOU'RE IN L.A. BECAUSE OF THAT "DISTURBANCE" DOWNTOWN I HEARD ABOUT ON THE RADIO! DON'T THEY HAVE ENOUGH DISTURBANCES IN THE BIG APPLE FOR YOU, CAP?
MISTER, CAN'T YOU GO FASTER?
WELL, SURE, BUT I DON'T WANT THIS RIDE TO GO TOO FAST! I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO MEET YOU!
DRIVE! HURRY!
TAXI
O-O-OKAY!
AND, AT THE WEST COAST AVENGERS COMPOUND IN PALOS VERDES--
--AS TONY STARK AND JAMES "RHODEY" RHODES LEARN OF THE DEVELOPING CHAOS IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES...
...FIRE AND WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION! SOME EYEWITNESSES CLAIMED THAT THE DAMAGE WAS CAUSED BY A MAN ON A WINGED HORSE! THESE REPORTS ARE UNCONFIRMED...
TONY--?
I... DON'T KNOW, RHODEY--
--BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME WE--THAT IS IRON MAN--HAD BETTER LOOK INTO IT!
MY WORK ON THE NEW ARMOR IS AT A CRUCIAL STAGE. COULD YOU?
YOU GOT IT, TONY!
AT THAT MOMENT, SOME MILES NORTH...
RUN, TOMMY! MOMMY TWISTED HER ANKLE--! YOU'VE GOT TO BE A BIG BOY, NOW! RUN AWAY FROM HERE! HURRY!
MAAAMEEE! I'M SCARED!
PLEASE, BABY! FOR MOMMY!
SCREEE!
TAXI
THWAM!
STAY LOW, MA'AM!
I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE IN A SECOND...


SO...THE FAMOUS CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS COME TO DEFEND THE CORRUPT INSTITUTIONS HE REPRESENTS! ALL HAIL THE CHAMPION OF LIES, INJUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN DECAY!
LOOK WHO'S HERE TO HELP US FIGHT THE BEYONDER!
THAT CLOWN CAN'T BE THE BEYONDER--BUT HE SEEMS TO BE DANGEROUS ENOUGH ANYWAY! IT APPEARS THAT HE'S BEEN GIVING THE X-MEN, THE DAZZLER, MAGNETO, AND A FEW I DON'T RECOGNIZE SOME REAL TROUBLE!
O.K. USED CARS
I HOPE MAGNETO IS BATTLE-WISE ENOUGH TO PICK UP ON WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO!
DAZZLER! STAND READY--!
HAH! IS THAT YOUR PITIFUL BEST, CHAMPION OF REDDI-WHIP, FORTREL POLYESTER, AND RYAN HOMES?
KTANG!
BLOCKED--AS I EXPECTED--BUT NOW HE'S OPEN! COME ON, MAGNETO--! FOLLOW UP!
NOW, DAZZLER--! NOW!
AHH!
THE SOUND OF CAP'S RICOCHETING SHIELD PLUS ALL THE OTHER RACKET AROUND HERE GIVES ME THE ENERGY TO RADIATE ENOUGH LIGHT TO PIERCE THOSE PROTECTIVE GOGGLES AND BLIND HIM FOR A SECOND!
I HOPE! DON'T LEAVE ME HUNG OUT TO DRY HERE, MAGNETO!
PERFECT! CAPTAIN AMERICA'S "JAB" SET HIM UP-- DAZZLER'S BLAST DAZED HIM--AND NOW I SHALL DELIVER THE KNOCKOUT BLOW!
OF COURSE!
O.K. USED CARS
MUST CLOSE
9PM
NEW TRADE

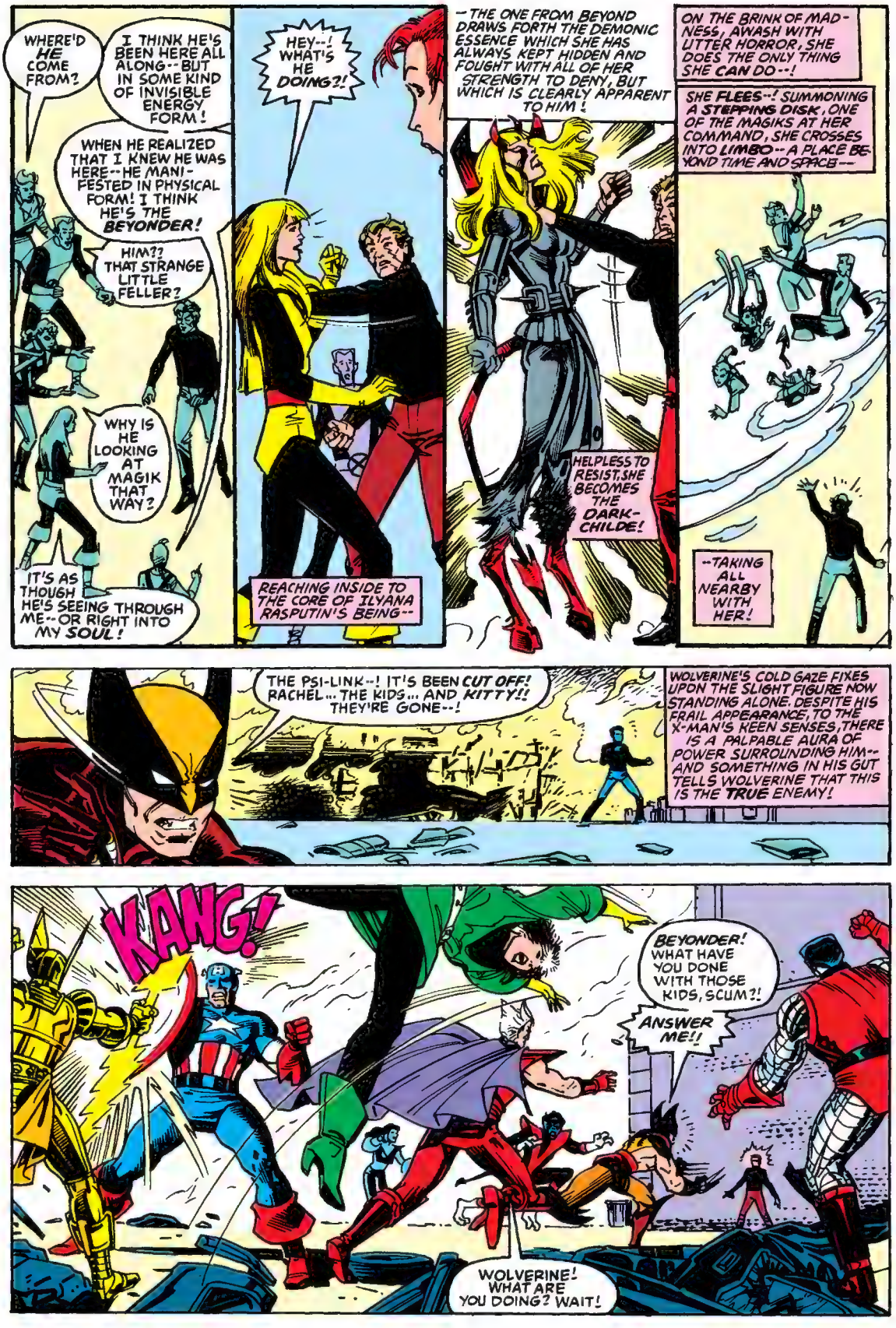

KLASH KER-ASHH!!

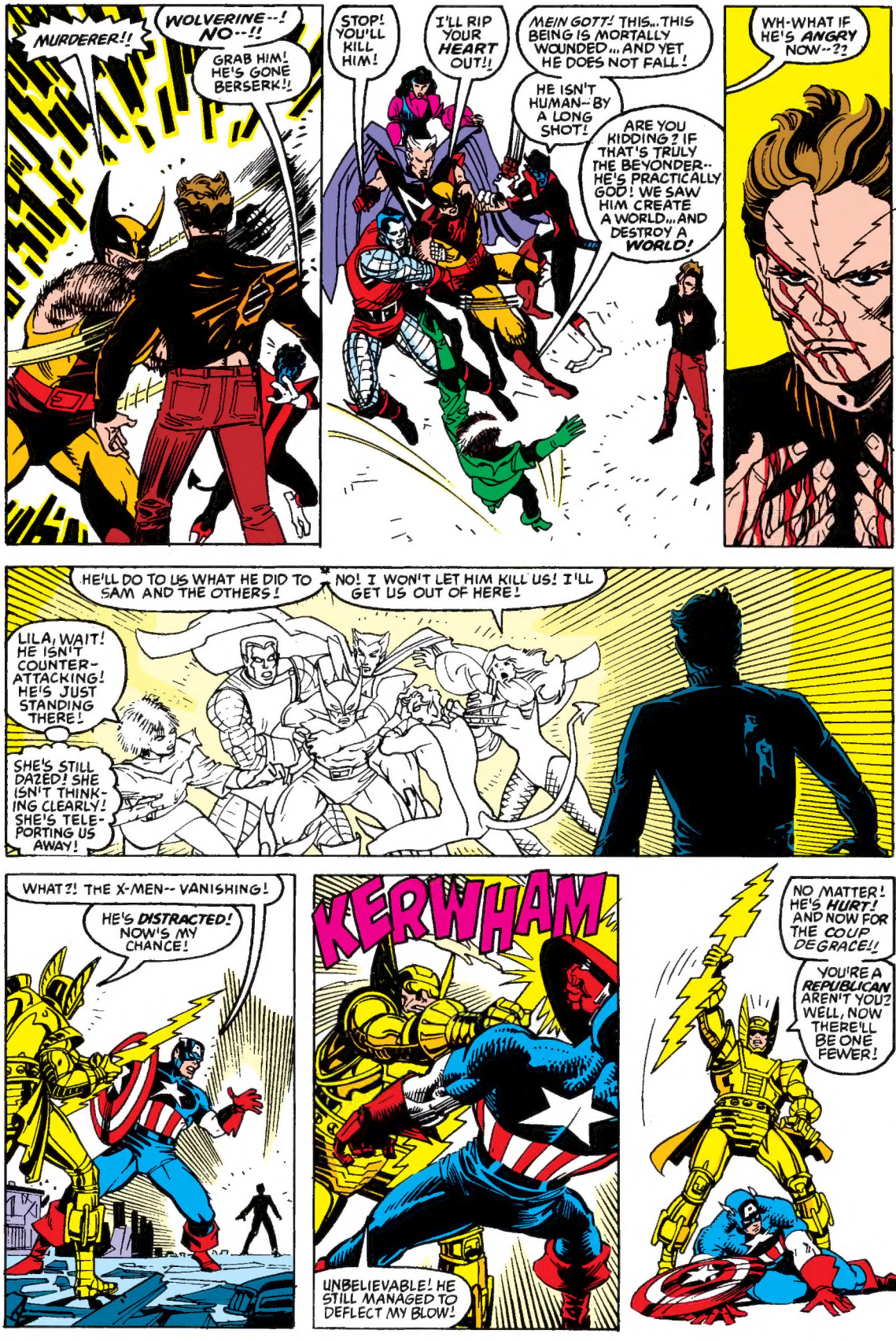

DESTROYING A LOTFUL OF USED CARS APPEALS TO ME! STILL, YOU'VE MADE ME EVEN ANGRIER THAN USUAL!
THE ONLY THINGS MORE INFURIATING THAN CORRUPT INSTITUTIONS ARE IDIOTS LIKE YOU WHO DEFEND THEM! MAKE THAT SOON-TO-BE-EXPIRED-IDIOTS!
OWWWW!

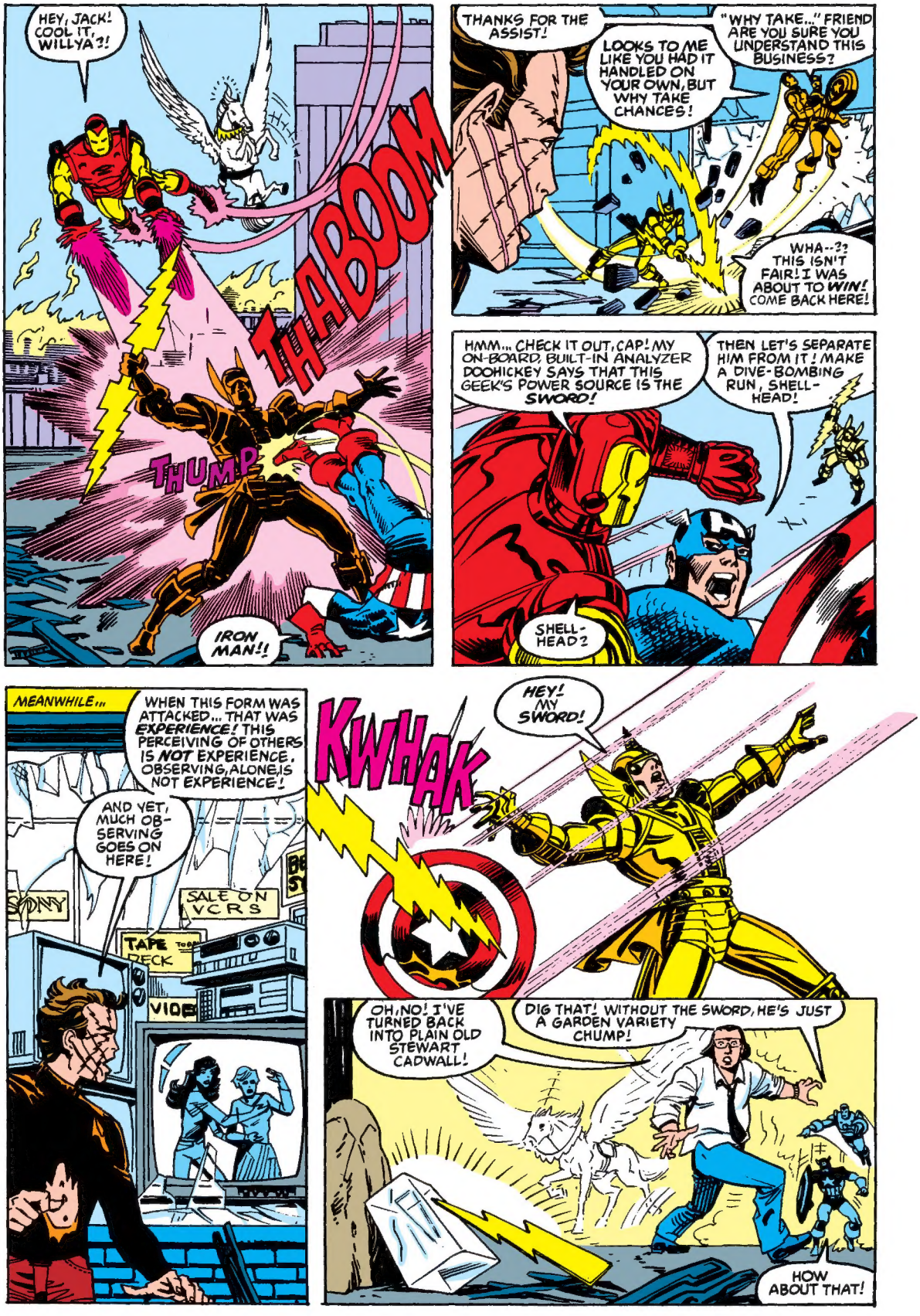
LILA'S BEEN HIT! SHE'S HURT!
I SENSE THAT SHE'S ONLY STUNNED! AT LEAST I THINK I DO! I'M HAVING TROUBLE SENSING ANYTHING! IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO MAINTAIN A PSI-LINK AMONG US! SOMETHING IS CAUSING SOME KIND OF PSIONIC INTERFERENCE!
IS IT THUNDER-SWORD?
NO... IT'S COMING FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION!

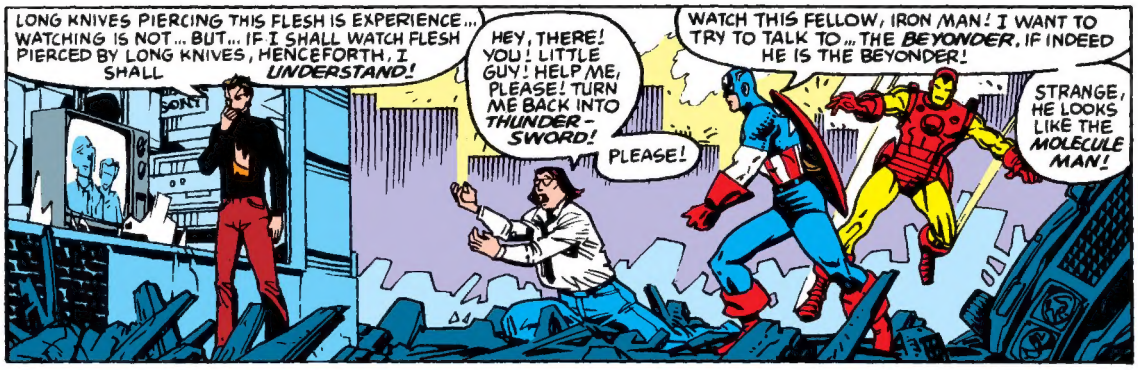

THIS IS... WEIRD! I FEEL... ANOTHER PRESENCE--! AN INCREDIBLY, AWESOMELY POWERFUL PRESENCE! NO WONDER PSIONIC TRANSMISSIONS ARE BEING DISRUPTED!
IT'S RIGHT... HERE!

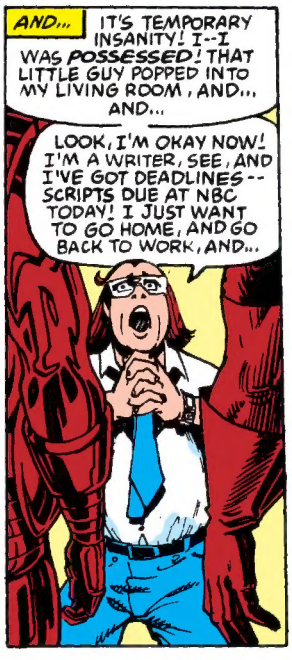
OH!
HEY, WHO'S THAT?!?


WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
I THINK HE'S BEEN HERE ALL ALONG--BUT IN SOME KIND OF INVISIBLE ENERGY FORM!
WHEN HE REALIZED THAT I KNEW HE WAS HERE--HE MANIFESTED IN PHYSICAL FORM! I THINK HE'S THE BEYONDER!
HIM?? THAT STRANGE LITTLE FELLER?
WHY IS HE LOOKING AT MAGIK THAT WAY?
IT'S AS THOUGH HE'S SEEING THROUGH ME--OR RIGHT INTO MY SOUL!
HEY--! WHAT'S HE DOING?!
REACHING INSIDE TO THE CORE OF ILYANA RASPUTIN'S BEING--
--THE ONE FROM BEYOND DRAWS FORTH THE DEMONIC ESSENCE WHICH SHE HAS ALWAYS KEPT HIDDEN AND FOUGHT WITH ALL OF HER STRENGTH TO DENY, BUT WHICH IS CLEARLY APPARENT TO HIM!
HELPLESS TO RESIST, SHE BECOMES THE DARK-CHILDE!
ON THE BRINK OF MADNESS, AWASH WITH UTTER HORROR, SHE DOES THE ONLY THING SHE CAN DO--!
SHE FLEES--! SUMMONING A STEPPING DISK, ONE OF THE MAGIKS AT HER COMMAND, SHE CROSSES INTO LIMBO--A PLACE BEYOND TIME AND SPACE--
--TAKING ALL NEARBY WITH HER!
THE PSI-LINK--! IT'S BEEN CUT OFF! RACHEL... THE KIDS... AND KITTY!! THEY'RE GONE--!
WOLVERINE'S COLD GAZE FIXES UPON THE SLIGHT FIGURE NOW STANDING ALONE. DESPITE HIS FRAIL APPEARANCE, TO THE X-MAN'S KEEN SENSES, THERE IS A PALPABLE AURA OF POWER SURROUNDING HIM--AND SOMETHING IN HIS GUT TELLS WOLVERINE THAT THIS IS THE TRUE ENEMY!
KANG!
BEYONDER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THOSE KIDS, SCUM?!
ANSWER ME!!
WOLVERINE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WAIT!


MURDERER!!
WOLVERINE--! NO--!!
GRAB HIM! HE'S GONE BERSERK!!
STOP! YOU'LL KILL HIM!
I'LL RIP YOUR HEART OUT!!
MEIN GOTT! THIS... THIS BEING IS MORTALLY WOUNDED... AND YET HE DOES NOT FALL!
HE ISN'T HUMAN-- BY A LONG SHOT!
ARE YOU KIDDING? IF THAT'S TRULY THE BEYONDER-- HE'S PRACTICALLY GOD! WE SAW HIM CREATE A WORLD... AND DESTROY A WORLD!
WH-WHAT IF HE'S ANGRY NOW--??
HE'LL DO TO US WHAT HE DID TO SAM AND THE OTHERS!
NO! I WON'T LET HIM KILL US! I'LL GET US OUT OF HERE!
LILA, WAIT! HE ISN'T COUNTER-ATTACKING! HE'S JUST STANDING THERE!
SHE'S STILL DAZED! SHE ISN'T THINKING CLEARLY! SHE'S TELEPORTING US AWAY!
WHAT?! THE X-MEN-- VANISHING!
HE'S DISTRACTED! NOW'S MY CHANCE!
KERWHAM
UNBELIEVABLE! HE STILL MANAGED TO DEFLECT MY BLOW!
NO MATTER! HE'S HURT! AND NOW FOR THE COUP DE GRACE!!
YOU'RE A REPUBLICAN AREN'T YOU? WELL, NOW THERE'LL BE ONE FEWER!

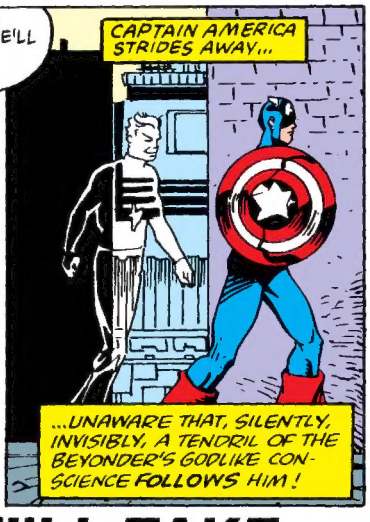

HEY, JACK! COOL IT, WILLYA?!
THABOOM
THUMP
IRON MAN!!
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST!
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU HAD IT HANDLED ON YOUR OWN, BUT WHY TAKE CHANCES!
"WHY TAKE..." FRIEND ARE YOU SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS BUSINESS?
WHA--?? THIS ISN'T FAIR! I WAS ABOUT TO WIN! COME BACK HERE!
HMM... CHECK IT OUT, CAP! MY ON-BOARD, BUILT-IN ANALYZER DOOHICKEY SAYS THAT THIS GEEK'S POWER SOURCE IS THE SWORD!
THEN LET'S SEPARATE HIM FROM IT! MAKE A DIVE-BOMBING RUN, SHELL-HEAD!
SHELL-HEAD?
MEANWHILE...
WHEN THIS FORM WAS ATTACKED... THAT WAS EXPERIENCE! THIS PERCEIVING OF OTHERS IS NOT EXPERIENCE. OBSERVING, ALONE, IS NOT EXPERIENCE!
AND YET, MUCH OBSERVING GOES ON HERE!
SONY
SALE ON VCRS
TAPE DECK
VIDEO
KWHAK
HEY! MY SWORD!
OH, NO! I'VE TURNED BACK INTO PLAIN OLD STEWART CADWALL!
DIG THAT! WITHOUT THE SWORD, HE'S JUST A GARDEN VARIETY CHUMP!
HOW ABOUT THAT!


LONG KNIVES PIERCING THIS FLESH IS EXPERIENCE... WATCHING IS NOT... BUT... IF I SHALL WATCH FLESH PIERCED BY LONG KNIVES, HENCEFORTH, I SHALL UNDERSTAND!
HEY, THERE! YOU! LITTLE GUY! HELP ME, PLEASE! TURN ME BACK INTO THUNDER-SWORD!
PLEASE!
WATCH THIS FELLOW, IRON MAN! I WANT TO TRY TO TALK TO... THE BEYONDER, IF INDEED HE IS THE BEYONDER!
STRANGE, HE LOOKS LIKE THE MOLECULE MAN!


AND... IT'S TEMPORARY INSANITY! I--I WAS POSSESSED! THAT LITTLE GUY POPPED INTO MY LIVING ROOM, AND... AND...
LOOK, I'M OKAY NOW! I'M A WRITER, SEE, AND I'VE GOT DEADLINES -- SCRIPTS DUE AT NBC TODAY! I JUST WANT TO GO HOME, AND GO BACK TO WORK, AND...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS CAP?
OF THIS POOR FELLOW? I THINK MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE HE NEEDS PSYCHIATRIC CARE! I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D KEEP AN EYE ON HIM TILL THE POLICE COME -- AND SUGGEST THAT TO THEM.
WHAT ABOUT THE X-MEN? AND THOSE MUTANT KIDS?
I'LL TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH XAVIER. REPORTING THEM MISSING TO THE AUTHORITIES PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD!

AS FAR AS THE BEYONDER... WELL, HE'S GONE! MAYBE TEMPORARILY, MAYBE FOREVER! WHO KNOWS? I INTEND TO SEACH FOR HIM, BUT IF HE DOESN'T TURN UP ARDUND HERE ... THEN I SUPPOSE IT'S HIS MOVE!
I HAVE A FEELING HE'LL MAKE IT SOON!


CAPTAIN AMERICA STRIDES AWAY...
...UNAWARE THAT, SILENTLY, INVISIBLY, A TENDRIL OF THE BEYONDER'S GODLIKE CONSCIENCE FOLLOWS HIM!

NEXT

The story continues — and how! — in *New Mutants #30*, *Captain America #308*, *X-Men #196* and *Iron Man #197*, all on sale soon! Don't miss them!

One month from now, the threads of the epic saga of the Beyonder are picked up again in *Secret Wars II #2* which guest stars *Spider-Man*, the *Fantastic Four*, *Power Man* and *Iron Fist*! Be sure to be here for . . .

"I'LL TAKE MANHATTAN..."

MINUTEMEN
Blutman